

# THE TIMES

No. 65,704

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 9 1996

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'Never been more important to win'

## Back Major, Thatcher tells Tories

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR



**BARONESS THATCHER** threw her backing behind the Prime Minister at his time of greatest need last night, declaring that it had never been more important to return the Conservatives to office and John Major to Downing Street.

She delighted Tories in Bournemouth by putting aside past differences to urge the party to unite and "get cracking" to beat Labour.

With the pre-election conference opening against the background of disputes over Europe and the sleaze controversy, Lady Thatcher's message was just what party managers had been praying for. They carefully staged both her arrival on the conference platform — where Mr Major kissed his predecessor — and a joint appearance at a reception for London Tories last night.

There, in a wildly-cheered four-minute speech, she said that the Tories alone had the principles, policies, experience and resolve to take Britain into the next millennium. "I have fought more elections than I care to recall. But it has never been more important to see the Conservatives returned to office — and you, John, to Downing Street."

She was responding to the Prime Minister who had hailed her as the architect of Tory revolution. "When you became Prime Minister in 1979 the country was in a very poor state indeed," he said. "In the 11 years that followed you changed the direction, nature, prosperity and future of the UK. We have tried in the last

five years to carry on that direction, carry on the policies of devolving power down to the individual and the family."

Next year's election, like 1979, would be a watershed because a fifth electoral defeat for Labour would "kill socialism for good in this country". That, he said, was a prize worth uniting for.

The public display of harmony came after a period of frosty relations during which Lady Thatcher had attacked One Nation Tories — among whom Mr Major counts himself — and given money to the Eurosceptic European Foundation. But yesterday she told her successor: "You and I, John, have put our principles, our Conservative principles, into practice year after year, not just when they were popular but when they were unpopular. We did it because we knew they were right."

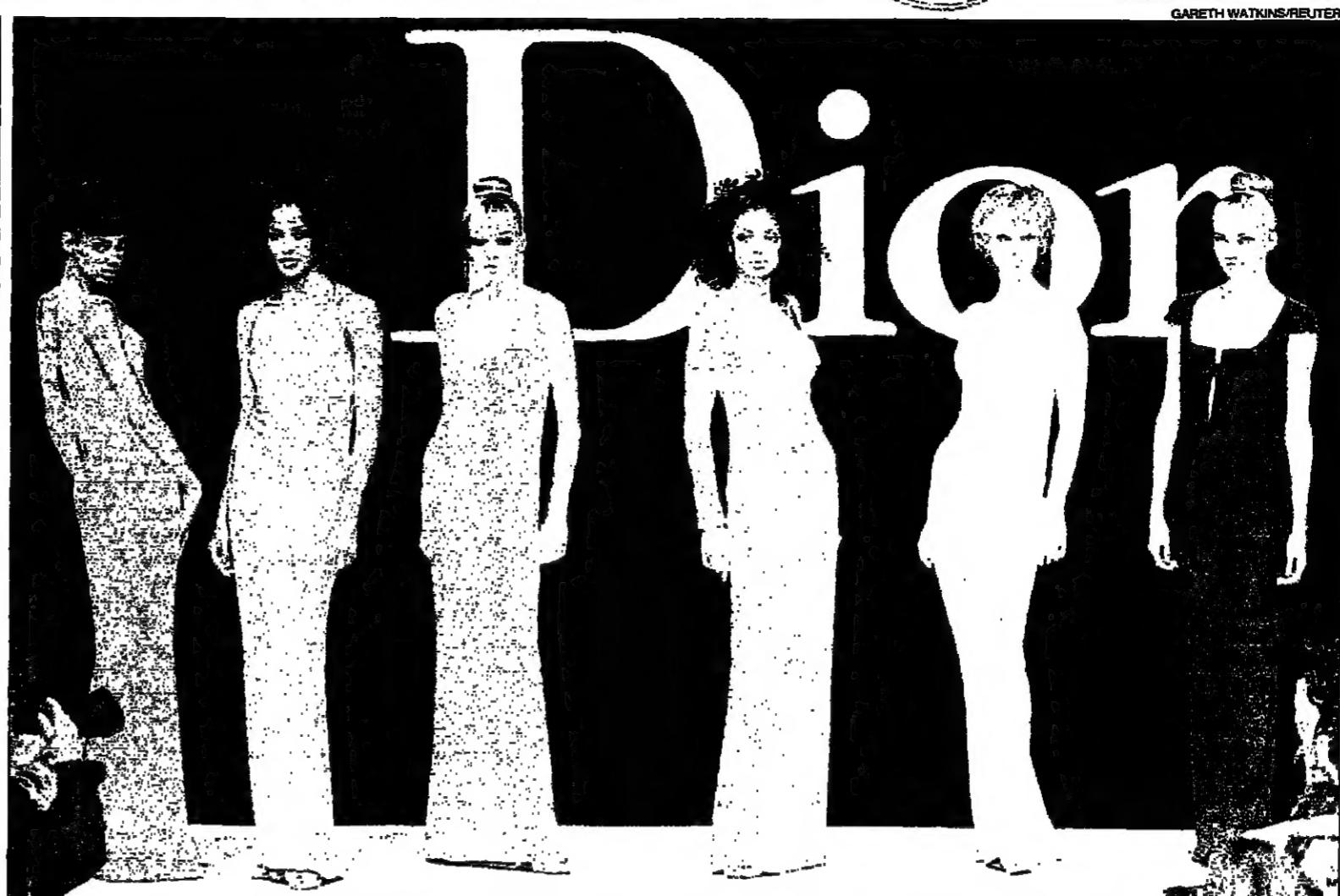
The endorsement was a big boost for Tory strategists who regard Mr Major's "Honest

"John" image as a key election weapon, and the leadership reciprocated in style with the party chairman Brian Mawhinney saying Tony Blair had no right to be compared to Lady Thatcher. "Mr Blair, you are no Margaret Thatcher," he declared. Dr Mawhinney also lavished praise upon Mr Major, calling him the most honest man in British politics.

Lady Thatcher later told activists that the nation was in safe hands with Mr Major. Labour were pretending to be Conservatives, but it was only an act, she said. "If you want Conservative policies, the best way of getting them is clear: it is to re-elect a Conservative government. Why settle for second best? If Labour gained power the country would take a decade to recover. "We know what to expect: socialism, red in tooth and claw. And in that case all the efforts we have made to restore Britain's prosperity and reputation would be thrown away."

The show of unity came as ministers announced policy initiatives designed to lift the sights of the party to the election. Michael Howard led the way with a series of populist anti-crime measures including the "naming and shaming" of juvenile delinquents and action against stalkers, child abuse and drug pushers. Stalkers would face up to five years in jail and the courts would be given powers to ban criminals from driving.

Conference reports, pages 8-9  
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Leading article, page 19



A last ready-to-wear show for Dior in Paris yesterday by the Italian designer Gianfranco Ferré — Briton John Galliano will be taking over

## Dior and Givenchy have designs on Britons

FROM GRACE BRADBERRY  
IN PARIS

**JOHN GALLIANO**, the son of a South London plumber, is to become head of Christian Dior, France's grandest fashion house, while Alexander McQueen, an east London taxi driver's son, has been offered Givenchy.

If McQueen, 27, takes up the offer it would leave two of the biggest French couture houses in the hands of British designers. Galliano, 36, became the first Briton to head a French couture house this century when he took over at Givenchy last year. Until then the last Briton to head a French house was Charles Worth in 1857.

British fashion designers are in demand because of their talent for the spectacular. Fashion, particularly couture, is increasingly seen as a loss-leader to boost sales of luxury spin-offs. Dior perfume sales were £704



In demand: McQueen, left, wanted by Givenchy, and Galliano

million last year, five times the sales of the fashion house.

As the French have discovered, nobody knows how to shock quite like the British. At McQueen's last show, during London Fashion Week, one

model was shackled to a metal frame at the elbows and knees. Another had live moths flying round her head in an enormous geometric head-dress. Earlier this week, McQueen had said: "Couture is beyond beyond. It is where

the dreams of your life in fashion become reality." But yesterday he was answering the telephone at his Hoxton studio in East London with a gruff "no comment". He has until today to make up his mind.

Galliano was paid £200,000 for each of the four collections he produced for Givenchy with £1 million to spend on each; and few can believe that McQueen, will not find a way to follow him. He has already made a name for himself as a startling innovator, and the creator of "bumster" trousers, cut revealingly low at the back.

Yesterday, some French women wept as Gianfranco Ferré, the outgoing Dior designer, took his last walk down the catwalk in the Louvre, Paris. For those who watched, it was possible to detect the unmistakeable influence of his successor — John Galliano.

Milan collections, page 16

## Ulster on brink of the abyss

By NICHOLAS WATT  
CHIEF IRELAND  
CORRESPONDENT

NORTHERN Ireland was on the brink of a return to all-out terrorist violence last night.

Loyalist paramilitaries held emergency talks about whether to resume their campaign of violence after the IRA admitted responsibility last night for Monday's double bomb attack on the army headquarters at Lisburn, Co Antrim. Government ministers pleaded with the loyalists to maintain their ceasefire.

The IRA claim, made in a telephone message to the Dublin newsroom of RTE, the Irish broadcasting network, by a caller using a recognised codeword, will put pressure on the loyalists to return to violence.

David Adams, main spokesman of the Progressive Ulster Party, the political wing of the Ulster Volunteer Force, also pleaded with the paramilitaries not to resume their campaign.

However Tony Freke, the chairman of governors, denied the school was avoiding contact with Lambeth. There was only one pupil left because it had found places for everyone else.

Lambeth is also in dispute with Southwark over the cost of the last pupil's education.

A Southwark spokesman said it had told the child in 1994 that it was ending funding for his place, but he stayed on nevertheless.

Bombs inquiry, page 2

## Familiarity breeds Tory contentment

## CONFERENCE SKETCH

By Matthew Parris



"I can't kiss you — I think we're being videoed"

futuristic screens, video projections remind us what the debate is about: for Farming we had combine-harvesters, taffybirds, par-baked buns and a plum.

Platform parties float in space, safe within two life-boat-like vessels. Between the boats a lonely speaker thrashes about like a swimmer in trouble. Bald heads peer over the boats' sides in concern. We half expect the occupants to start throwing each other overboard, or eating the cabinetry.

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Princess video was a hoax

Video pictures apparently showing Diana, Princess of Wales cavorting with James Hewitt were revealed as a hoax last night.

The Sun, which published stills from the films on Tuesday, admitted that it had been fooled "by cunning fraudsters" in "one of the most elaborate hoaxes of the decade".

They were confronted by a science fiction stage set: Eurovision Song Contest meets Star Trek. On to blank.

Mr Hague gave the day's best speech. With conviction and fluency the young prodigy tore into devolution plans. Lady Thatcher gazing adoringly on Hague's well-paced Yorkshire grind ("millions of us") verges on the robotic and comes oddly from a chap resembling a Cow & Gate baby competition winner.

He shares the £750,000 prize with William Vickrey, a Canadian economist... Pages 25, 26

## £650,000 schoolboy funded by council

BY DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

AN inner London council is paying £12,500 a week to keep open a boarding school with 38 staff for just one pupil.

Lambeth Council said it was forced to foot the bill, equivalent to £650,000 a year, after a parent whose son has since left the school won a High Court review to keep it open against its wishes.

The 17-year-old pupil comes from another south London borough, Southwark, which has refused to pay for the boy. He boards at the school while studying at a nearby college.

Lambeth inherited Enborne Lodge Special School near Newbury, Berkshire, which caters for up to 40 bright boys with behavioural problems.

from the Inner London Education Authority which was disbanded in 1990.

Lambeth planned to close it last term as part of a general policy to educate children with special needs in mainstream schools. However, in a judicial review brought by Beverley Nicholson, a parent governor, in the name of her son, Aaron, the High Court ruled that Lambeth had not followed guidelines on consultation in the 1993 Education Act.

Aaron decided to leave but one child insisted on remaining at the 18-acre site this term. Lambeth must continue to pay for the head, eight teachers, six care staff and 23 other employees, at a cost per week equivalent to the £12,000 annual fees for keeping a pupil at

Eton, while it runs another three-month consultation on closure.

The council spends an average of £3,000 a year per pupil educating other children in the borough Lambeth, which has no overall political control, said it had suffered a breakdown in communications with its wishes.

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## Blair and Ashdown urge full inquiry on Hamilton

By VALERIE ELLIOTT  
WHITEHORN EDITOR

TONY BLAIR and Paddy Ashdown joined forces last night in urging the Prime Minister to set up a judicial inquiry into the case-for-questions affair.

The Labour and Liberal Democrat leaders insisted that they had no confidence in Sir Gordon Downey's inquiry because he lacked any formal powers to summon witnesses or call for papers. They called for a fresh body to be set up under the Tribunals of Inquiry (Evidence) Act 1921, a mechanism which they said had been traditionally used when there were serious allegations of corruption or misconduct in public life.

Mr Blair and Mr Ashdown made clear that they had every confidence in Sir Gordon's integrity and competence, but that public confidence would not be restored unless a senior judge was appointed to head a formal public inquiry. The pact between the two leaders is unusual: Labour and the Liberal Democrats combined forces over the Scott inquiry but Mr Blair and Mr Ashdown were not involved.

A letter sent to John Major yesterday said that an alleged memo from David Willets, now the Paymaster-General, but then a Government Whip, suggested that an attempt was made in 1994 to undermine the investigation by MPs into allegations against Neil Hamilton. They claim that it would now be wrong for Sir Gordon to investigate a complaint of political interference. "If such interference did take place, it is not narrowly a matter of members' interests, or the financial propriety of an individual MP's conduct. It is a constitutional question outside Sir Gordon's remit."

Downing Street sources said that Mr Major had made his views clear about the Hamilton affair and he believed that a formal tribunal would take too long. Mr Willets said yesterday that "every single piece of paper relevant to the inquiry" would be put before Sir Gordon. He said that Mr Major had promised complete co-operation.

Army seeks answers to security breach as soldier lies gravely ill

## Investigators study videos to identify Lisburn bomb vehicles

By MICHAEL EVANS AND AUDREY MAGEE

ARMY investigators examining the grave breach of security at Thiepval barracks in Lisburn are hopeful that hours of video film will establish which vehicles were used in the terrorist bomb attack on Monday. The two vehicles involved in the attack were destroyed and so far the police have been unable to identify their make or the registration numbers.

Lieutenant-General Sir Rupert Smith, the General Officer Commanding (GOC) Northern Ireland, has taken personal charge of the army inquiry into the security breach, while the police carry out the criminal investigation into the terrorist attack.

One of the theories being examined yesterday was that the terrorists may have used security passes belonging to one of the building firms which are currently employed on the 600-acre site. Another scenario was that the terrorists acquired passes belonging to legitimate visitors to the barracks.

The possibility remains that the armed guards had simply failed to enforce the proper security procedures and had waved the terrorists through without checking their passes. If this proves to have been the case, it seems likely that the vehicles must have been familiar to those manning the barriers, indicating that they may have been driven to the barracks on previous occasions.

One element that is clear is that the soldiers on guard duty had not been aware of any

Leading article, page 19

Aftermath: firemen among devastation inside Thiepval barracks yesterday

thing suspicious, otherwise the Army's ultimate security measure at the entrance to the barracks would have been brought into play. At the push of a button crash-proof electronic gates can be slid across the road at each of the two security barriers.

Security was stepped up across the province and Irish troops were back in force on the border in a bid to protect the Republic against possible Loyalist retaliation for the Lisburn attack. Police in flak-jackets returned to Belfast city centre to man entry points long ago abandoned.

A soldier in his 30s or 40s, the most seriously injured of the blast victims and the last to be identified, was in a critical condition in Belfast's Royal Victoria Hospital last night. With more than 50 per cent burns, he also has head injuries and wounds to his left arm, which may have to be amputated. Three other people, two men and a woman, 30, are being treated in the hospital. They are all described as being in a serious but stable condition with shrapnel wounds. The woman, an army employee in her 30s, also has head injuries and burns and one of the men has a broken thigh. Twelve injured soldiers were also still being treated in Musgrave Park Hospital, Belfast.

Consultant surgeon Mr Laurence Rockett said their injuries suggested they were all within 10-20 metres of the explosions.



### NEWS IN BRIEF

## One third of children aged 16 are on drugs

A third of 15 and 16-year-olds in Britain are using drugs, according to the first continent-wide survey by the European Union on abuse by schoolchildren.

In Spain the figure is 20 per cent, 15.3 per cent in France and 5.8 per cent in Sweden. Drug problems among teenagers are rising in Britain, Ireland, Holland, Finland and Greece, the survey says. The most popular drug by far is cannabis, with 30 per cent of British mid-teens saying they use it. LSD was used by 12 per cent. Only a tiny fraction have experienced the hardest drugs. Less than 1 per cent in Britain have used heroin.

## Princess Royal visits Sarajevo

The Princess Royal flew to Sarajevo yesterday to visit British peacekeeping troops and to pay a courtesy call to the new Bosnian presidency. She was expected to meet the Croat and Muslim members of the three-man presidency, but not the Serb representative. She was due to go to Banja Luka, where the bulk of the British force is based.

## Judgment reserved in 'bright' case

The High Court has reserved judgment on the case brought by a couple whose £450,000 home was allegedly blighted by a bypass scheme. Maurice and Audrey Baldwin built Swans Harbour, Wroxham, Norfolk, in 1984. But estate agents deemed it "worthless" after the council said the new road would run through the garden of the house next door.

## Driver apologises to swimmer

Alfred Trevett, 65, who caused a crash that prevented the swimmer Alexandra Bennett from attending the Olympics, was fined £500. Miss Bennett, 18, broke both legs and ankles in the head-on collision on February 5. Trevett, from Bleasby, Nottinghamshire, who admitted careless driving, said: "All I know is that I'm a very sorry."

## £150,000 for 4d stamps

The only known example of the world's first three adhesive stamps on one envelope was sold for £150,000 at Christie's yesterday to an anonymous buyer. The Penny Black, Two-pence Blue and Penny Red are on an envelope posted to the Earl of Lauderdale in 1841. The letter was posted with the 2d stamp; the others were added when it was redirected.

## Brothers found hanging in park

Two middle-aged men, believed to be brothers, have been found hanging from a tree in an apparent suicide pact. Their bodies were discovered early yesterday by a workman on a secluded towpath beside the River Ouse near Clifton, York. Police think they might have come from Leeds and are not treating the deaths as suspicious.

## Model seeks damages over rape

A model who was raped by Owen Oyston when she was 16 has begun a civil action for damages against the entrepreneur in the High Court. Oyston was jailed for six years in May for the rape and indecent assault of the teenage model known only as Miss B. The victim, 20, is claiming for personal injury and losses arising from her ordeal.

## Basement fire silences Radio 5

Radio 5 Live, the BBC's 24-hour news and sport station, went off the air for two minutes yesterday after fire broke out in the basement of Broadcasting House. About 400 staff were evacuated but no one was hurt. The blaze was caused by an electrical fault and was brought under control by internal fire and security staff.

## Familiarity breeds contentment at Tory conference

Continued from page 1

like one of those horror movies where the voice of an alien body-invader emerges from an abducted toddler — but the conference loved him.

They loved Michael Forsyth (the Scottish Secretary), too. Forsyth has a hunched, jagged delivery, faintly demonic, and played shamelessly to the gallery by waving altered images of the Union Flag. Finally he and Hague held a huge, real Union Flag between them: grinning poison-dwarf and alien body-

invader, our poor flag stretched between. The repellent spectacle was cheered wildly.

But then, no conference speech succeeds, these days, without the gizmo crack. Videos, postcards from old ladies in Liverpool, near-sober references to deaths in the family or among friends, politicians piggy-backing on to the emotional aftermath of national tragedy... It is not enough to inform: we must be whammed.

Stephen Dorrell's whammy was to

replace his speech with a marathon question and answer session. People could ask anything they liked.

The ostentatiously competent Health Secretary coped well, so the session was without interest. Nobody asked the real questions: "Why don't you get a sun tan, you whey-faced bap?" "Why do you scowl like a ghoul and shout all the time?" and "Reincarnated, which animal would you choose?"

Still, Dorrell's gimmick succeeded, like Forsyth's flag. Soon will come the

ultimate conference speech. A host of hologram angels flock from the ceiling, dry-ice puffs from the platform, lasers, scissor, video-images dance around the walls and, to underline disco music, politicians roller-skate around the conference floor, miming to quadrophonic repeats of a killer-sound bite.

Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, did none of these. Instead he just explained doggedly how difficult it all was. Thus, Hogg missed the point. Some of us love him the better for it.

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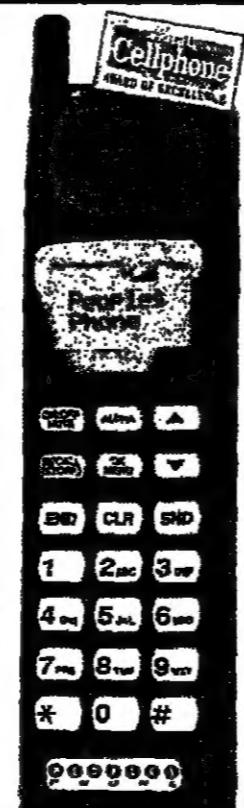
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مكالمات من الأصل

Editor apologises to readers after falling for elaborate deception

## Sun says video of romping Princess was cunning hoax

BY EMMA WILKINS AND MICHAEL EVANS

**VIDEO** pictures apparently showing Diana, Princess of Wales cavitating with James Hewitt were revealed as a hoax last night.

The Sun, which published stills from the film on Tuesday, admitted it had been fooled. It was "one of the most elaborate hoaxes of the decade," the paper said.

It added it had been "conned by cunning fraudsters" and apologised profusely to the Princess and Hewitt for any hurt or offence caused.

The grainy, black and white pictures were run across five pages. They purported to show the Princess stripping down to sports bra and shorts before passionately embracing a man claimed to be the former cavalry officer.

The Princess admitted in her Panorama interview last November that she had "adored" the former cavalry officer.

At 8pm last night The Sun admitted it had been conned and its main tabloid rival, the Daily Mirror, said it had spoken to the two Diana lookalikes used in the video. Both had believed that when it was shot earlier this year it was to be used in some satirical television programme.

The video, they revealed, was shot at two different locations. One insider said: "It was nothing more than an elaborate hoax and The Sun has been made to look rather ridiculous. Normal journalistic checking would have confirmed that it was not genuine."

The Sun said: "The 80-second film was offered to the editor of The Sun last week during a clandestine meeting with two men who acted as intermediaries."

"We made our best endeavours to corroborate the contents of the film with independent witnesses confirming the apparent identity of the princess and Mr Hewitt. We also hired the services of surveillance experts to assess



James Hewitt at home in Devon yesterday

and give their verdicts on the original source of the film."

Editor Stuart Higgins said: "I take full responsibility for this mistake and will apologise in writing to both the princess and Mr Hewitt for any offence caused. I believe The Sun and myself were the victims of a sophisticated hoax deliberately aimed at embarrassing myself and The Sun newspaper, which prides itself on getting things right and has established a reputation for doing so. I would also like to apologise to our 11 million loyal readers who look to The Sun as their ally on all fronts and should not have been subjected to publication of this hoax."

The revelation that The Sun had been hoaxed came yesterday after the Princess's office dismissed the pictures and the alleged story around them as trivial and unworthy of comment.

A spokeswoman for the Princess said: "The Princess feels that there are far more important things going on in the world today, such as the terrible bombing in Ireland,

than the trivia which is in The Sun."

A spokesperson for Kensington Palace confirmed last night: "The Princess has authorised me to tell you that she does not recognise either herself or Major James Hewitt in these photographs."

Senior royal sources had spent the day questioning the provenance of the video and emphasising that there was no evidence that the footage showed the Princess or Captain Hewitt. "There is doubt about the authenticity of these pictures. Whoever it is in them, it's a pretty prurient and outrageous invasion of someone's privacy," one royal aide said.

The news the video was a fraud came after the Princess, wearing a vibrant scarlet suit, visited an Aids care centre in London and was greeted with cheers and tears of emotional support from a crowd of more than 200.

For the Princess it was business as usual as she joined staff and patients to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the London Lighthouse, Europe's largest residential centre for people affected with HIV and Aids.

Christopher Spence, the founding Director, said the Princess had referred to The Sun but refused to recount her exact remark. "She was on very good form indeed. Very buoyant and pleased to see us all here. She did make a reference to The Sun but it was just in passing."

As she left the Princess stopped to talk to Maureen Wilding, 46, from Montana who is blind and suffers from cerebral palsy. Mrs Wilding asked for a hug and the Princess obliged — causing Mrs Wilding to burst into tears.

James Hewitt posed for photographers outside his home in Bratton, Clevedon, Devon but refused to comment. "Leave me alone with my privacy. I have got nothing to say."



The Princess arriving at the London Lighthouse centre for Aids sufferers. Her office said there were more important things in the world than the "trivia" in The Sun

## Expelled boy asks court for reprieve

BY BILL FROST

A PUPIL expelled for allegedly letting down his teacher's car tyres as an April Fool's Day prank yesterday launched a High Court effort to get back to school.

Martyn Ashworth, 15, who now has home tuition, is arguing that exclusion from Birches Head High in Stoke-on-Trent was too high a price to pay. His family are fighting the case on legal aid.

Ian Wise, representing the boy, who was not in court, told Mr Justice Turner that Martyn was one of four pupils involved in the incident. However, it was now accepted by the school that he did not let the tyres down but was present when the incident occurred. The other boys received temporary exclusions.

Staffordshire County Council's Education Appeals Committee erred in finding the offence was sufficiently serious to justify expulsion, Mr Wise said. The Secretary of State for Education had issued circulars to schools advising that children should remain at a school unless their presence

## US police quiz abducted girl

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

A FOUR-year-old Belfast girl who went missing for 20 hours in Florida at the end of a family holiday was yesterday questioned by female officers from the sex crimes division of Orlando Police Department.

Cadimha McEvoy, who was with her parents at a local hotel, was said to bear no obvious signs of abuse after she was apparently abducted for a night. Officers and social workers trained in dealing with rape victims were involved in the delicate process of debriefing.

In a letter, the boy's solicitor told the local education authority: "As advised, Martyn was not a member of the group who deflated the teacher's tyres. He was present at the incident simply as a result of the fact he was walking with the group in question from a football match."

"Furthermore, we understand that at no time has Martyn ever admitted to being the student responsible for the incident."

The hearing was adjourned to a date to be fixed.

for 40 guests, claiming it would be paid by the Ministry of Defence, and told the vicar, the Rev Colin Richards, that a security cordon had been thrown around Trinity Church, Portcawl, for the service last October.

Jones's only military experience was three months in the Territorial Army, from which he was discharged for impersonating a major. He met his future wife, a mother of two, when she was a passenger in his taxi. He told her: "I'm not a taxi driver really, I'm working undercover for the SAS."

Peter Jacobs, for the prosecution, said:

"Jones changed his name twice by deed poll, claiming the IRA were onto him. Unfortunately Mrs Jones was taken in by it all."

"He came home after one of his fake manoeuvres and told Diane he was required to do a charity walk as part of an army punishment. He chose a charity called the British Institute for Brain Injured Children and also offered to

donate some of the proceeds to the primary school where Diane's children attended. He carried out the walk from Portcawl to Edinburgh in April 1995 and free accommodation was laid on along the route.

"After the walk he said he would forward the money to the charity but it was not forthcoming. He in fact put the estimated £6,000 into his account and it was swallowed up by his overdraft."

Jones of Portcawl, admitted 23 charges including stealing the £6,000, obtaining a bank overdraft and credit while an undischarged bankrupt, obtaining services by deception and perverting the course of justice.

After the case Mrs Jones, a welfare officer, said: "I was shocked to find out what had been going on and in some ways I can't believe it. I still think that basically he is a good man. All he was trying to do was impress me." She said that she was considering her future with her husband.

## Taxi driver dared to win bride with fake role as SAS officer fleeing IRA

BY JOANNA BALE

FOR five years a taxi driver deceived his girlfriend into believing that he was an SAS officer. He claimed his life was under threat from terrorists and paid friends in fake uniforms and carrying air rifles to patrol the hills around his couple's home.

Anthony Jones, 36, said he was a lieutenant-colonel, persuaded a friend to don army gear to pose as his commanding officer, and arranged a military-style wedding. Yesterday he was jailed for 18 months for a series of frauds to pay for his "SAS" lifestyle.

Cardiff Crown Court was told that for his wedding to Diane, 35, Jones hired a uniform with a ceremonial sword and peaked cap. He obtained six more bearing the SAS emblem for his friends but they refused to take part. Jones told his bride: "They've been called overseas on SAS duty."

He ran up a £1,400 bill at the reception

دكتور من الأجل

## Man 'would pass muster' as WPC after sex-change

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A 6ft blond rejected by a police force on the grounds that she was a man who had recently undergone a sex-change operation would certainly pass muster as a WPC, the chairman of a industrial tribunal said yesterday.

The transsexual, whose identity cannot be revealed, passed an initial test to join West Midlands Police. But she got no further after she disclosed she had had sex-change surgery.

On her application form the 29-year-old described herself as a single white female. She wrote: "I am single and cannot have children, so I would be able to give the career my whole."

Giving evidence at the tribunal in a black trouser suit, purple blouse and high-heeled shoes, she said that before applying in August 1998 she had consulted the force's medical officer about the necessity of disclosing her medical history.

She had undergone sex-change surgery in 1994 after living as a woman for two years, and had changed her driving licence, passport and National Insurance card to her female identity.

"She [the medical officer] advised me not to put my condition on the application form as it was not reviewed by medical officers but by ordinary police officers who were more likely to reject it. I attended the initial assessment, was successful and at the next stage was requested to provide copies of my school certificate. I had not altered these to reflect my true gender."

"This caused difficulties. Ultimately I had to explain that I had gender reassignment surgery. I received a letter from a chief superintendent which stated that due to your gender reassignment you would be precluded by law from undertaking certain routine duties."

Roger Wardle, assistant chief constable of West Midlands Police, said the transsexual had been turned down because she was legally a man and would have been unable to search women or deal with

the victims of indecent assault and rape. The force operated an equal opportunities policy, but he said the applicant was still legally male according to the birth certificate.

"I think I was right to come to the conclusion that it would be wrong to allow this person to carry out searches on females because legally she is a male," Mr Wardle said. But Christopher Tickle, the tribunal chairman, said: "In these circumstances the law is clearly an ass. There's no reason why she couldn't search male suspects under this reasoning.

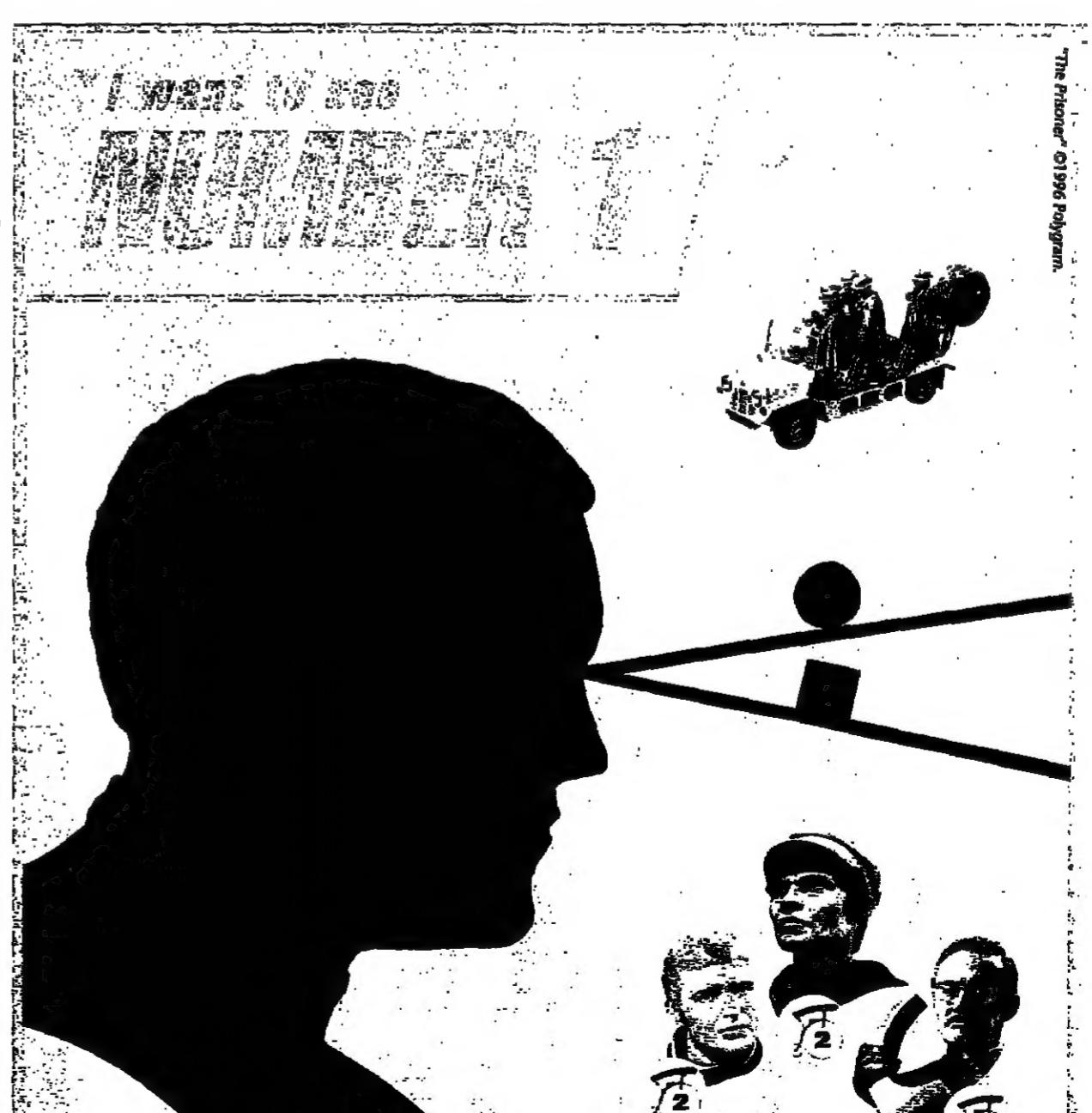
But she doesn't want to search men because she regards herself as a woman and wants to be a female police officer. This person is male by gender but female by appearance."

Mr Tickle said no one would have guessed that she had been born a male. "The chance of a woman complaining about being searched by the applicant is nil. The applicant would certainly pass muster as a member of the female sex with no problem at all."

Mr Wardle admitted that homosexual and lesbian officers in West Midlands Police were allowed to search members of their own sex. But he said that having a transsexual searching women could leave the force open to civil action. "The ability of a police officer to carry out searches in line with the police and criminal evidence act is one of the core tasks expected of an officer. We cannot have officers on the force who cannot carry out certain tasks."

Mr Tickle said: "I would agree with that if you were dealing with hundreds of people in a similar situation to the applicant. But you have had only one transsexual apply to the force. There is no question of any floodgates being opened."

The transsexual said she had applied to be a WPC because there was no chance of promotion in her previous office job, where she had been accepted as woman after her surgery. The tribunal continues today.



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Arrival of second wife at aristocrat's home was 'emotional straw that broke the camel's back'

# Housekeeper stole from lord when he married new lady

By A STAFF REPORTER

A HOUSEKEEPER stole cherished possessions from her aristocratic employer after he brought home a new wife. Carole Parker, 44, took wartime medals and other items worth thousands of pounds from the Gloucestershire home of Lord Apsley, heir to the 14,000-acre Cirencester Park estate.

Magistrates in Cirencester were told that Parker went off the rails after Lord Apsley, whose father, Earl Bathurst, is a polo-playing friend of the Prince of Wales, married his second wife, Jenny Jonckheer, for the prosecution, said: "She told police she felt her job as housekeeper had been reduced in importance, together with her own worth."

Brian Head, for the defence, told the court that Parker regarded her job as a come-down and was already depressed when the new Lady Apsley arrived. "Within a short space of time it was becoming difficult," he said. "It was largely because of the attitude and approach towards her of the new partner of Lord Apsley. She was displaying a very difficult and



Carole Parker: stole medals and mementoes

overbearing attitude to my client and her daughter. The emotional straw, which in this case was Lady Apsley, broke the camel's back and she began to steal."

The thefts included medals and mementoes presented to the Bathurst family for its services to the nation during the First World War, which included the creation by Lady Bathurst of the Primrose Charity. Mrs Jonckheer said:

"The items were of considerable value, running into thou-

sands of pounds. They were collected over many generations and were of great sentimental value to the Bathurst family. Lady Apsley later expressed her concern that this lady, who was a trusted employee of the family, felt obliged to do what she did. She said, 'We feel greatly betrayed.'

Other items included a stamp album and a Hornby toy train. Parker sold them during a total of three visits to an antiques dealer in Cirencester.

"When he had them valued after the first visit he realised they were, in fact, worth a great deal more than he thought," Mrs Jonckheer said.

"It aroused his suspicions but she had told him they were items from her family and he had no reason to think that was not the truth."

On Parker's second visit the dealer was more suspicious and informed police. "She returned a third time but, in the meanwhile, police had been contacted and were waiting for her to make an approach," Mrs Jonckheer said.

Police later searched her flat in converted stables on the estate and found a bin liner in

the boot of her car containing more items, including a Hornby train carriage. Although all the items were returned, some of them, including an 1886 stamp album from which stamps had been removed, were spoilt and tainted.

Mr Head said that Parker

had never been in trouble before and that the theft was totally out of character. Her mother's death 13 years ago caused her to become so depressed that her marriage had broken up and she lost her professional job. She took the housekeeping post, which included accommodation for



Lord and Lady Apsley: the defence claimed that Lady Apsley displayed "a very difficult and overbearing attitude" towards her housekeeper

her and her daughter, as a last resort.

"She saw herself as a failure — a bit like a doctor reduced to a dustman," Mr Head said. "The housekeeper's job was at the end of the road."

It was the arrival of the second Lady Apsley which finally tipped her over the

edge, he said. "She was depressed, emotionally under strain and behaved in an uncharacteristic, irrational and unacceptable way. She bitterly regrets it and wishes she could turn back the clock."

Parker, from Welshpool, Powys, admitted a single count of the theft of 16 items between

January 1 and July 6 this year. She was ordered to carry out 120 hours' community service work and to pay £170 compensation to the antiques dealer. She was also ordered to pay £40 costs.

She was too upset to comment as she left court with friends.

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*There's a great deal going on*

## Inmates to run wing of prison

By STEWART TENDERL

PRISONERS are to run their own prison wing under a scheme backed by the Home Office, to rehabilitate criminals. The Verne prison in Portland, Dorset, is to be the British testbed for a system used in the United States and Brazil.

The scheme, run by the Association for the Protection and Assistance of the Convicted (Apac), will allow prisoners to manage a wing and suggest ways of improving conditions and morale. Prisoners will police the wing under a senior prison officer and an ex-offender could be appointed director.

Organisers are looking for charities to help to fund the scheme and to pay the salaries of the director and deputy so that the scheme will not depend on Home Office money. If they can raise the funds the scheme could start next spring.

Tim Turner, governor of the prison, said: "This is an exciting project which has never been tried in this country although it has been successful elsewhere. We are not undertaking this project lightly and the group will run within the overall rules of the prison with staff maintaining overall control. If the system works then any sign of abuse of power among prisoners will be stopped by peer pressure."

The idea first emerged in an overcrowded and hostile prison in Brazil. After a series of riots the authorities handed over half of the jail to Christian volunteers. Conditions and behaviour improved dramatically, leading to the complex being handed over to Apac with a former prisoner being made governor. A spokeswoman for the Prison Service said the scheme had the support of

## Mad cow disease was 'act of God'

By MICHAEL HORNSBY

MAD cow disease was "an act of God" and should not be blamed on the British Government, a senior official in the Ministry of Agriculture said yesterday.

While the Government might have responded differently to the disease with hindsight, the overreaction of some European Union countries had made the crisis worse, Richard Packer, the ministry's permanent secretary, told Euro MPs in Brussels.

Speaking at a European Parliament committee of inquiry into BSE, bovine spongiform encephalopathy, Mr Packer said: "Was the UK Government responsible for the whole disastrous mess? No, it wasn't."

In the main it was an act of God, if you like. Some of the things we have done we might with the benefit of hindsight have done differently. To that extent the UK Government accepts responsibility — but that is not very much of the responsibility."

Douglas Hogg, the Minister of Agriculture, had been asked to address the inquiry personally but he refused on the grounds that he was attending the Tory party conference in Bournemouth.

To José Happart, a Belgian Socialist Euro MP, who wanted to know who was to blame for the BSE crisis if it was not the British Government, Mr Packer replied: "I do not accept that something goes wrong it is necessarily somebody's fault."

"It is true in the case of BSE that not all our controls were 100 per cent effective and to that extent we have a share of the responsibility. But that is a small share. It is not the fault of the scientists. It is our fault," he said.

BSE protest, page 9

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Descendant of man who sold out to mine company spent 26 years repaying 'debt to nature'

## Now green is the valley my ancestors ruined

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

A FAMILY has spent 26 years restoring a ravaged Cumbrian valley, more than two centuries after their ancestors sold it to a lead mining company.

When Ian Johnston inherited Thorberg Gorge, an eight-acre site on Alston Moor high up in the North Pennines in 1971, he also inherited "a debt to Nature" which he determined to repay.

In the 1780s his ancestors sold the land to be mined because it was too steep for farming. When the mine closed in the early 1920s, the valley, with its streams and waterfalls, had been buried under thousands of tons of rock and spoil.

Aided by his sons David and Andrew and his wife Jennifer and using for the most part only picks, shovels and wheelbarrows, Mr Johnston has returned the valley as near as possible to its original state. The streams and waterfalls flow again, thousands of trees grow on the hillsides.



Flowers carpet the ground and wildlife, including a rare English colony of red squirrels, is abundant.

Last month the family travelled to London to receive a pewter plate from Country Life commemorating the magazine's choice of Mr Johnston as its Countryside of the Year. "It was a wonderful occasion," he said yesterday. "I had not been to London for 35 years. Indeed, we had not taken a holiday of any kind for 25 years because we were so busy."

Johnstons had lived in the

area for centuries. "We were border reivers [brigands] and spent a lot of our time pillaging and marauding, I am afraid," Mr Johnston said. His uncle bought Thorberg Gorge in 1938 and began clearing it up. "He was able to do little more than touch the surface. When I took it over, all the old mine shafts, or drifts, railway culverts and workings were still there."

"We brought in excavating machinery but in the upper reaches, where the ravine was narrowest, we had to do everything by hand."

Twelve years ago, Mr Johnston sold his business distributing industrial supplies and used the proceeds on his scheme. He estimates the local authority would have spent more than £1 million to achieve the same.

The family converted the mine workshop into their home. Mr Johnston's sons, who are trained blacksmiths, built a forge where they make garden furniture.



Eden restored: Ian Johnston and his family recreated waterfalls and streams and reintroduced trees and wildlife

## School shotgun boy sentenced to four years

By SHIRLEY ENGLISH

A BOY aged 12 who went to school armed with a stolen semi-automatic shotgun and cartridges inscribed with pupils' names was sentenced to four years' detention at Edinburgh High Court yesterday.

The judgment was made on the eve of the memorial service being held at Dunblane Cathedral in memory of the 16 pupils and a teacher murdered by Thomas Hamilton on March 13. Prince Charles is expected to attend.

The court was told yesterday that the boy informed friends he had drawn up a hitlist and planned to shoot pupils at his secondary school who had "grassed" on him two days earlier, when he had been caught stealing a computer mouse from a classroom. He also bragged that he would shoot himself.

The boy, who cannot be named for legal reasons, stole the double-barrelled shotgun from his father's gun cabinet and shortened the barrels with a hacksaw.

He set off for school on May 2 — two and a half months after the Dunblane massacre — carrying the gun, 15 cartridges, an air pistol and two knives in his bag. Three of the cartridges had the names of pupils written on them and one bore his own nickname.

On the bus he told friends: "It's today." At one point he took the gun out of his school bag and put it under his chin.

The headmaster learnt of the plans when news that the boy had a gun spread through the school "like wildfire", the court was told. He took charge of the boy's bag and called the police. At no time had the boy

actually threatened anyone with the weapon.

Sentencing the boy to four years' detention, temporary judge Robin McEwan, QC, said it was "almost inexplicable" why this had happened. He said the sentence in a secure school would cover the boy's period in education.

"At the present time any offence involving the use of guns requires to be taken very seriously. However I cannot overlook the fact that you are a child and I have taken account of that," he said. "You have some very concerned and caring people looking after you and I am confident they will keep you away from further offending."

The boy admitted possessing the gun on a bus and at the school and possessing an air pistol and two knives. He also admitted possessing the firearm with intent to cause others to believe that unlawful violence would be used against schoolchildren. He also admitted stealing the shotgun and shortening it.

The boy's defence counsel, Ruth Anderson, said the youngster came from "a caring, supportive and loving" family. He had shown signs of behaviour problems and he was inclined to be a show-off, she said.

After the hearing, Ann Pearston, organiser of Dunblane's anti-gun Snowdrop Petition, said the fact the boy was able to take a gun from his father's gun cabinet raised serious questions: "I would like to know whether any action is being taken against the boy's father."

The headmaster learnt of the plans when news that the boy had a gun spread through the school "like wildfire", the court was told. He took charge of the boy's bag and called the police. At no time had the boy

## Thumbs-up, then bomb exploded

By A STAFF REPORTER

AN OFFICER of the Diplomatic Protection Group said yesterday that he gave the thumbs-up sign to a security guard after checking a car near the Israeli Embassy moments before it exploded.

PC Ian Duncan, who was knocked over by the blast, told the Old Bailey that the car had been parked by a woman he had first seen speaking into an intercom of a neighbouring building. She said that she was visiting friend. When told to move her car, she asked for an extra five minutes to get cigarettes from a shop near by.

PC Duncan said: "She offered me the keys, I declined the offer and told her so long as she was only five minutes, or as quick as she could, I would allow her to leave the vehicle there. I allowed five minutes to pass then I did a vehicle check on my personal radio."

The officer saw a security guard from the embassy taking a closer look at the car. "He glanced at me and I gave him the thumbs up that I had checked the vehicle and nothing untoward had come back. The embassy man made his way to me and appeared to be about to start a conversation when the vehicle blew up."

The car bomb caused at least £5 million damage to buildings in the area. The officer suffered shock but was not injured.

He picked out Nadia Zekra, 48, at an identity parade in January the following year. He had "absolutely no doubt" that she was the woman he had seen at the embassy.

The prosecution alleges that Mrs Zekra, a mother of two, planted the car bomb as part of a Palestinian terror group's campaign to sabotage an Israeli-Arab peace initiative in July 1994. Mrs Zekra, of West Kensington, has denied causing an explosion.

Earlier the court was told that fingerprint evidence linked three other alleged members of the terror group to a cache of arms and bomb ingredients found in a safe deposit in Acton, west London, nearly a year after the embassy bomb and a second explosion outside a Jewish charity.

Samir Ajami, 30, of South Kensington; Javad Botmen, 25, of Bloomsbury; and Mahmoud Abu-Wardeh, 25, of Putney, deny conspiring to cause explosions and possessing an explosive substance and firearms.

The trial continues.

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# High Court rules asylum seekers may claim benefit

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Government suffered another defeat at the hands of the judiciary yesterday when a High Court judge ruled that asylum seekers may claim benefit under the National Assistance Act 1948.

Mr Justice Collins said that local councils must provide asylum seekers at risk of destitution "with the basics for survival" while their claims for refugee status are being considered.

In cases brought by four asylum seekers, which could affect more than 30,000 people, Mr Justice Collins ruled that local authorities had a duty to grant emergency aid to immigrants who had been denied it because they failed to claim asylum on entry.

He was careful to say that he did not consider that his ruling frustrated recent government legislation to curb bogus asylum seekers, introduced to undercut the effects of a court ruling in June.

He said: "I find it impossible to believe that Parliament intended that an asylum seeker, who was lawfully here and who could not be lawfully removed from the country, should be left destitute, starving and at risk of grave illness and even death because he

could find no one to provide him with the bare necessities of life."

But pressure groups and charities working with asylum seekers viewed the case as a highly successful attempt to establish basic legal rights for an estimated 8,000 asylum seekers denied emergency funding under the Asylum and Immigration Act 1996.

Gerry Clore, solicitor for the asylum seekers, said many genuine asylum seekers faced the prospect of starving to death on the streets of British cities: "One of the four bringing this case arrived at our office having not eaten for three days and sleeping rough in Hyde Park. He would have been denied it because he failed to claim asylum on entry."

He argued that three London authorities — Westminster, Lambeth and Hammersmith and Fulham — were in breach of their obligations under the National Assistance Act in refusing to provide housing for destitute applicants who were desperate and could not look after themselves. Mr Justice Collins agreed. He said the authorities had adopted "too narrow a construction" of the law.

Quashing their decisions to deny the asylum seekers help, he ordered them to reconsider each case.

## West Coast line bidders to bring in high-speed tilting trains

By JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

THE sale of the 400-mile West Coast Main Line between London and Glasgow was launched yesterday, with bidders asked to introduce high-speed tilting trains by 2002.

The 125mph trains will cut journey times between London, Birmingham, Manchester and Glasgow, allowing the franchise operator to compete more effectively with airlines. A £500 million fleet of about 36 trains, expected to be ordered next year from Italy or Sweden, will have a fastest journey time from London to Glasgow (normally five hours)

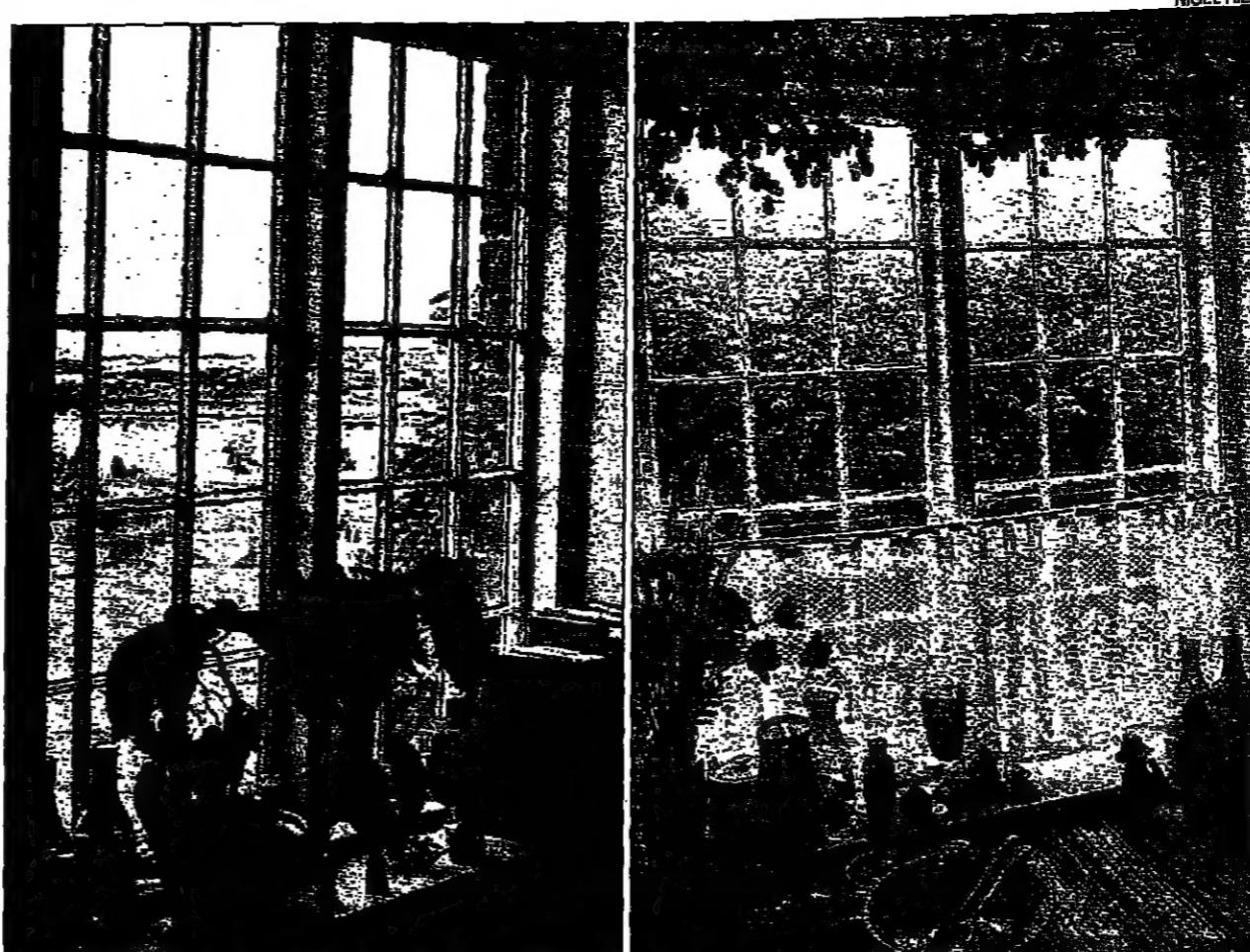
of about four hours and 10 minutes.

At present the line has the worst punctuality record on the InterCity network, with about 20 per cent of services running late. The offer of the franchise is linked to a £1.5 billion upgrade by Railtrack over the next ten years.

The image of tilting trains was tarnished in Britain by the memory of the "queasy rider" fiasco of the early 1980s when British Rail had to scrap its £50 million fleet of Ad-

vanced Passenger Trains because they made passengers feel sick. Other European engineers have mastered the problem and the popularity of tilting trains has increased across Europe.

The 15-year franchise is expected to be let by Roger Salmon, the rail franchise director, in March. Fourteen companies, including Richard Branson's Virgin Group, the London & Continental Railways consortium building the Channel Tunnel Rail Link and several bus companies have been invited to bid.



Narrowed horizon: the outlook from the sitting room of the Laws's cottage before and after the trees were grown

## Retired couple claim squire cast shadow over room with a view

By RUSSELL JENKINS

A COUPLE are taking on a wealthy country squire in a legal battle to reclaim the view over the Welsh mountains from the sitting room window of their retirement cottage.

John Laws, 61, a former history teacher, and his wife Brenda, 61, were drawn to Bay Tree Cottage in the village of Stoke Edith, Hereford and Worcester, because of its setting on the edge of the 7,500 acre estate owned by Andrew Foley. Sunlight streamed through the rooms and in the evening they were able to watch the sun go down across 30 miles of unspoilt countryside.

Then, five years ago, Mr Foley, 58, planted fast-growing *Cupressocyparis leylandii* eight feet from the north and west walls, surrounding the house in darkness.

The Laws say they cannot understand why Mr Foley has ignored pleas to cut back the growth, which imprisons the house inside a 15ft-high conifer hedge. When Mr



Hedged in: Brenda and John Laws at Bay Tree Cottage

Laws lost his job as a community care project worker two years ago, the couple put the house on the market. They have been told by estate agents that the Leylandii render unsaleable the former estate gardener's cottage they bought for £42,000 in 1988. Mr Foley has triggered a clause in the conveyancing document that gives him first option on a sale. He has made offers of £60,000 and £55,000, which the Laws turned down because they say they represent half the property's market value.

The couple began a long legal battle which they say has

eaten up their £10,000 savings and damaged their health. Their action for nuisance interference with the right to light and compensation for damage to the walls is likely to be heard shortly in Hereford County Court.

Before the trees grew the Laws could see the chimneys of the 17th-century mansion at the centre of Mr Foley's extensive estate. He also owns land in America. The squire's ancestors include Paul Foley, a speaker in the House of Commons in the 17th century, and Lord William Graham, who was MP for Hereford in the last century.

Mr Foley hit the headlines two years ago when he left Gillian, his wife of 20 years, for Melanie Westall-Reece, 31, a former promotions manager for Hereford United soccer club.

Mrs Laws said: "He thinks he can do this because he is lord of the manor but he is living in the past. It is like living in a cage. We cannot see anything and we have to have the lights on all day. All we see is a mass of green."

## Price of petrol hits £3 a gallon

By KEVIN EASON

MOTORING EDITOR

PETROL prices have reached £3 a gallon as oil companies try to claw back the loss of millions of pounds in the forecourt price war. A survey has discovered that the price of a gallon of super-unleaded has already reached 60.3p a litre (£3.01 a gallon) in one area of the country.

Prices rose by 2p a litre last month, the latest in a series of rises since July when the big oil companies appear to have called a truce in their fight with supermarket chains. The survey was carried out by PHH Allstar, which provides fuel charge cards for company cars. Brecon Quaddy, its spokesman, said: "In nearly 20 years of monitoring fuel prices, these are the highest prices we have seen. Anyone filling the tank of a medium-sized family car with ten gallons will have to pay nearly £2.80 more this month than they did in August."

PHH surveyed 700,000 transactions at petrol stations. Its research showed that four-star fuel selling in September at a national average of 63p a litre (£2.86 a gallon), unleaded at 58p (£2.64), super-unleaded at 63p (£2.86) and diesel at 50p (£2.66). Plymouth was the costliest place to fill up, with super-unleaded at 66.3p (£3.01). Bradford was the cheapest, with 58p (£2.66).

Keith Greenhead, PHH's fuel division manager, said: "The main objective of the major oil companies during the price war was to improve their share of the market. Thousands of independent retailers have been forced out of business."

"It shouldn't really come as a surprise to anyone that oil companies are now beginning to charge prices necessary to be profitable. Motorists have enjoyed the benefits of artificially low prices for many months and it was good while it lasted."

Shell said last night that £3 for a gallon of super-unleaded was unrepresentative. "Super-unleaded is only 3 per cent of the market and does not tell the whole story. Recent price increases have been driven by an increase in the cost of bulk product fuelled by the tense situation in the Middle East."

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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 9 1996

HOME NEWS 7

27

## Trust asks Castro to return Havana half of Canaletto

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE National Trust is trying to persuade Cuba to sell half of a Canaletto canvas that was cut in two by the painter to make it more saleable.

The trust hopes to reunite the two halves of the 18th-century painter's *Chester from the Thames*, one of which is in the National Museum, Havana, and the other in a Norfolk stately home. The left-hand portion, showing the Thames with the greenhouse of the Physic Garden, is in Blickling Hall in Norfolk, which is owned by the National Trust. The right



Canaletto: reputation bruised by his nephew

half, a study of Chelsea Hospital and Ranelagh Gardens, is in Cuba.

Fidel Castro has appealed to the authorities in Cuba, I wrote last year when it looked as if things were loosening up in Cuba. It all seems to have closed down again." The Helms-Burton Act, which allows American companies to sue foreign businesses or individuals that have gained from investment in Cuban property confiscated since the revolution, is not likely to affect the trust's attempt.

Merlin Watson, regional director for the trust's East Anglia region, said the trust had heard the Cuban Government might want to dispose of various pictures. "Our picture is so very beautiful. But as soon as you know it

is only half, you long to see the artist's full conception. If it had been lost or destroyed, we would still have a superb and beautiful picture. I'm sure the Tate or National Gallery would be interested in acquiring it for the nation."

The painting was produced during Canaletto's visit to

England between 1746 and 1748. He advertised it on July 31, 1751, in *The Daily Advertiser*: "Signor Canaletto! Gives notice that he has painted the Representation of Chelsea College, Ranelagh House, and the River Thames, which if any Gentleman and others are please'd to favour him with

seeing the same, he will attend at his Lodgings..."

Canaletto — who is best represented in the Royal Collection — was one of the most sought-after artists of his day. He may have had difficulty selling this painting because his reputation had been bruised by his nephew,

Bellotto, borrowing his name. Mr Laing said: "When the real one came along, they accused the uncle of being a fraud." That, he suggested, may have taken its toll.

The painting was believed to have measured 38in by 92in before being cut up. The trust's 34½in by 42in portion

was among Blickling's contents when the house was sold by the Marquis of Lothian in 1940.

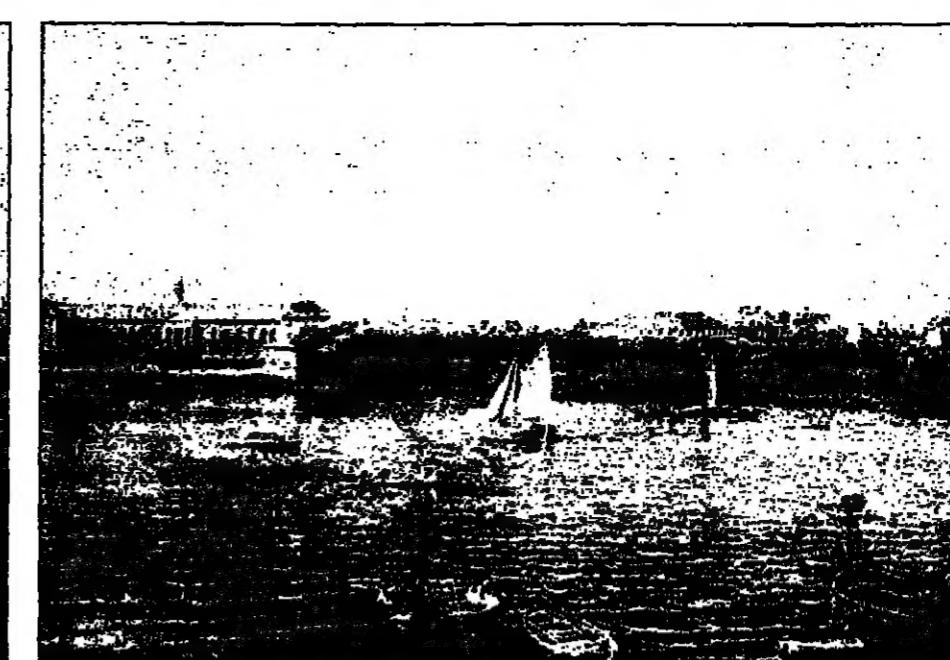
Other paintings that have been cut up and later renovated include a view of Dordrecht by Albert Cuyp, owned by the trust, and Manet's *Execution of Maximilian*, which was reassembled by Degas.

tracting part of a landscape, for example.

Mr Laing said it was unusual for a picture of such quality to have been sliced up, particularly, as is believed, by the artist. Dealers regularly used to cut up pictures, ex-



*Chester from the Thames*: It is not known if the right-hand portion, in the National Museum, Havana, has been damaged or if the quality of the photograph is poor



## Builders unearth mass grave from Wars of Roses

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

A MASS grave dating from the Wars of the Roses has been discovered by builders near Tadcaster in North Yorkshire.

The skeletons are believed to be victims of the Battle of Towton, one of the bloodiest battles fought on British soil in which more than 30,000 men fell. So far more than 50 skeletons have been recovered and some have been reburied at a churchyard near by.

The battle took place in 1461, ending in victory for the Lancastrian forces. So many died that legend holds that the local stream, the Cock Beck, ran red with blood for days afterwards.

The grave was found by men from KG Construction who were using a JCB to prepare the ground for building work. They alerted the Home Office and the skeletons were studied in a joint operation between Bradford University and the Yorkshire Archaeological Services.

Neil Camping, county archaeologist for North Yorkshire, said the six-hour battle was fought in a snowstorm. "We found about 50 skeletons heaped together in a communal grave. It is likely that they were buried where they fell, so there may be more remains

around the area. One of the skeletons still had the metal tip of an arrowhead embedded in its spine. Others had fractures and breaks to their legs, suggesting that because of the armor worn around the trunk, the enemy would try to bring their foe to his knees and then attack his head."

The bones were sent to the Calvin Wells Laboratory at Bradford University for analysis. Veronica Florato, deputy county archaeologist, said that while the location of various burial pits from the Wars of the Roses were known, excavation was rare. Further analysis would yield more details of an exciting find.

The Rev Chris Coates was happy to rebury some of the skeletons in a service at All Saints Church, Saxton. He said: "The workmen who found the grave attended the funeral. Most of the dead probably spent their last hours in the bloody heat of battle."

"They would have been very young, teenagers I should think. I know that all of them came to a pretty grisly end. I think they have spent enough time in a field; they deserve their place in consecrated ground."

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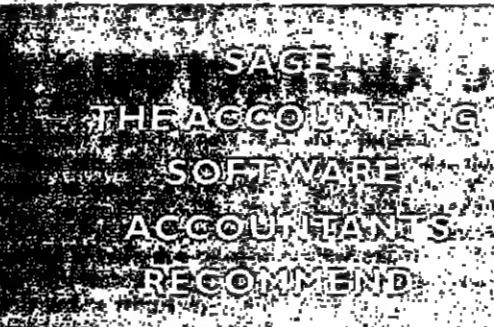
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ATTI





Decline in ordinands means 4,000 parishes are likely to have no full-time priest by 2000

## Church of England faces recruitment crisis

By RUTH GLEDFIELD  
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

LARGE parts of Britain face a future without a full-time parish priest, according to a report which discloses a recruitment crisis in the Church of England.

The report forecasts that by 2001 the number of full-time male clergy will have fallen by 1,175 to 8,000. The number of women being ordained will not compensate for the shortfall, with the current total increasing by 99 to 963.

According to the report, there will be about 9,000 full-time men and women priests in the Church by the turn of the century, leaving at least 4,000 parishes without a minister.

But not all those 9,000 will be full-time parish priests because, as now, more than 600 will work in administrative or cathedral jobs. Already, many parishes have been combined into teams or group ministries and this trend is likely to continue.

The report, *Numbers in Ministry 1996*, discloses a slump in vocations since the General Synod voted to ordain women priests in 1992. Three theological colleges have closed and numbers at others are down by more than half. This year, 210 men and 81 women are expected to complete their training and enter full-time stipendiary ministry. By next year the numbers will fall to 190 men and 65 women.

The decline mirrors that which has already taken place in the Roman Catholic Church and suggests that ordaining married or women priests might not be the answer to the Churches' recruitment difficulties. One of the most surprising revelations in the report is that, after the first flush of ordinations of women priests, hardly any new women are entering the full-time ministry.

Church of England dioceses are responding to the shortfall by recruiting increasing numbers of unpaid clergy to take services on Sundays. But many of these have other work and are not available for priestly duties such as visiting, writing parish magazines or managing parish affairs. Many church

leaders fear the decline heralds a nationwide change in the pattern of the Church's ministry. They are concerned that the increasing reliance on non-stipendiary priests is denting the principle that a priest be available to all in every parish.

The changes come at a time when increasing numbers of clergy are reaching retirement age or leaving the ministry. In 1995, 338 retired and 236 left for other reasons. One knock-on effect will be that, although the cost of stipends will fall, the burden of pensions will increase.

Chichester, Lincoln and Salisbury and Wells theological colleges have shut and Yorkshire's Mirfield College of the Resurrection, a training ground for the catholic wing, has eight students completing their

training this year and seven in 1997. The report notes that ordinands now have little difficulty in finding jobs. Last year, all the new priests were successfully ordained into parish jobs.

The report will be discussed by the synod when it meets next month. The Rev Stephen Trott, of the MSF union's clergy section, said: "It is clearly going to encourage bishops and dioceses to think in terms of using more non-stipendiary clergy. I suspect that this will result in a reduced quality of clergy being available to the parishes. The whole point of parish ministry is that a priest should be available, and non-stipendiary clergy are generally not available, except for services."

BOB COLLIER

## Bishop and lover emerge from hiding to apologise

By KATE ALDERSON

THE former bishop, Roderick Wright, and his lover Kathleen Macphee emerged from their Lakeland hideaway yesterday to apologise for the "sadness and pain" caused since they ran away together more than four weeks ago.

Mr Wright, 56, and Miss Macphee, 41, a divorcee, held a news conference in the back garden of their rented terraced house in Kendal, in the hope that that their first public appearance together would end the media presence outside their house.

The former Roman Catholic bishop and Miss Macphee have spent the past two weeks on the Continent, trying to escape the controversy which has followed them since they ran away together and sold their story to *The News of the World*. Earlier yesterday, in newspaper interviews, the couple disclosed that they had consummated their relationship and were to marry.

Mr Wright, reading from

the typed statement, said: "We wish to apologise, especially to our families who have suffered so much, not only because of the manner of our leaving, but because of the intense pressure placed upon them by the media. We also wish to apologise to the Catholic Church, in Scotland in particular and especially to the priests and people of Argyll and the Isles."

He added: "We are in love and intend to marry but at this moment we are living from day to day and we do not yet know when that will be."

The couple said they were concerned by the portrayals of Miss Macphee's relationship with her three children, aged 24, 18, and 15, whom she had left in her home in Port William, Highland, to be with the bishop. "She has a close and loving relationship with them all and that will continue," the statement said. "They are fully supportive of her."

Mr Wright said he was not

currently looking for work, adding that he had no idea what the future held. The pair intended "living out our Catholic faith as best we can" and the former bishop said he would miss his vocation as a priest. "We both accept the Church's law and have no criticism to make," he added. He said he had not accepted money from any newspaper but his lover said she had accepted "a small amount" from the *News of the World* on behalf of her children. However, she had yet to receive the money and was not certain she would accept it.

When asked if it had all been worth it, Mr Wright said: "In one sense yes. Our main sadness and pain is what we caused in the lives of others."

He was asked if he accepted the charge that they had betrayed the Church and re-

plied: "In a sense yes, and that is something I feel very sad about. Betrayal, in a sense, of leaving the vocation which I had chosen and lived so many years of my life."

He said he accepted the church's laws on celibacy — "I make no further comment on that, I make no excuses" — and added that he and Miss Macphee wished they had handled things differently. "In

a way we went backwards instead of forwards, but it spiralled into something neither of us ever expected."

Mr Wright said he had not spoken to his illegitimate son, Kevin Whibley, 15, but planned to when it was "appropriate to both of us".

Finally, the couple were asked why they had chosen Kendal as a hideaway. "We thought it would be a nice

quiet place," Mr Wright replied.

The Catholic Church in Scotland issued a cold response to the apology. Father Tom Connolly, Catholic Church spokesman, said: "It would be lacking in courtesy to say anything via the media. He has not been in touch with us. If the bishop wants us to say something he can always get in touch."

### Timely reminder

British Summer Time will end at 2am on Sunday, October 27, when clocks should be put back one hour to 1am, Greenwich Mean Time.



Hand in hand, Roderick Wright and Kathleen Macphee climb the steps from their Lakeland house yesterday. The former bishop read a statement

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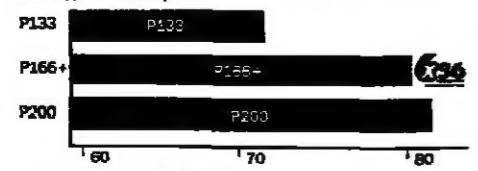
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## Fooled by fallible pregnancy test

### MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

THE story of the pregnancy which was not diagnosed has been told this week in the High Court and will remind all older doctors of the difficulties faced before modern pregnancy diagnostic tests became available at every chemist.

Maureen Flynn of Clapham, giving evidence about her pregnancy, said that in 1989, aged 39, she was taking the mini Pill. Even so, when she missed two periods she went to see her doctor, who said the most likely reason was the emotional upset she felt after her eldest son ran away from home.

Routine pregnancy tests were carried out but were apparently negative. Mrs Flynn returned a month later to report that she still had not had a period, and that she thought she was pregnant. She was feeling abnormally tired, that her abdomen was so swollen her skirt would not do up and that she was experiencing numbness in her hands. By her fourth visit the patient was also suffering from indigestion and excessive wind. The doctor, presumably misled by a series of apparently negative pregnancy tests and the patient's history of taking the mini Pill regularly, still dismissed the thought of pregnancy and gave her a tip.

Rejecting the standard indigestion mixtures suggested in the British National Formulary, he recommended that there was nothing like a good curry to settle wind. The doctor's experience of curry houses is unusual, as most lovers of vindaloo find that it is guaranteed to produce rather than cure flatulence. Eventually, Mrs Flynn's pregnancy was diagnosed by ultrasound, but not before its presence had also been noted by doctors on her first visit to the local teaching hospital.

Although doctors used to pride themselves on their ability to detect early pregnancy without diagnostic kits, mistakes were often made. Diagnosis rested on the appearance and feel of the breasts, as well as by taking a careful history.

Even before the enlarging uterus could be felt suspicions would have been triggered by the patient's increasing girth. This is because abdominal bloating is a feature of early pregnancy and is caused by the softening of the muscles, brought on by hormonal changes.

Tingling in the hands can result from the effect of the weight of the enlarging breasts pulling on the nerves in the neck.

The old adage that every woman between 15 and 50 who misses a period is pregnant unless proved otherwise is still a good one. Contrary to popular belief, pregnancy tests can give false and equivocal results, particularly if the urine is contaminated.

Hospitals 'ignore clot risk'

FEWER than half of high-risk patients undergoing surgery are given anti-blood clotting drugs that could save their lives, says a report published today (Jeremy Laurance writes).

More than 3,000 cases of blood clots in the lungs would be avoided and 400 lives saved if all patients at high risk were given preventive drugs, the saving to the NHS could be as much as £32 million.

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CHANGING TIMES

## Drugs cash accused in court

John Gilligan, 44, of Dublin, was remanded in custody for eight days by magistrates at Uxbridge yesterday, charged with an offence under the Drug Trafficking Act. Mr Gilligan is accused of concealing money, representing the proceeds of drug trafficking, for the purpose of avoiding prosecution.

## Designer arrests

Fake designer clothing worth more than £2 million has been seized in raids by police and trading standards officers on homes and warehouses in Essex and east London. Five men were arrested.

## Asthma advice

Information cards are to be distributed to asthma sufferers to help them to spot symptoms and manage their condition. The Department of Health is sending over 130,000 cards to GPs to be given out at check-ups.

## Ford milestone

A Fiesta 1.4 Ghia became the ten millionth vehicle to be made by Ford at Dagenham as the company celebrated the production of 250 million vehicles worldwide. The first Dagenham Ford was a Model A truck, made in 1931.

## Cell stabbing

A police officer was in a serious condition in hospital after being stabbed by a prisoner as he escorted him to a cell. PC Bill Bolan, 37, was stabbed in the shoulder and thigh at Bridewell police station, Liverpool.

## Sunday sailing

A ferry company is planning to start Sunday sailings to the last Hebridean islands where observation of the Sabbath has prevented a service. Caldonian MacBrayne aims to begin sailings to the Isles of Lewis and Harris in 1998.

## Timely reminder

British Summer Time will end at 2am on Sunday, October 27, when clocks should be put back one hour to 1am, Greenwich Mean Time.

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# French chemical firm is linked to Holocaust gas

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS



Lacroix-Riz under threat

A FRENCH chemicals company may have played a role in the manufacture of poison gas used to murder millions of Jews in Nazi death camps, according to a French historian who says that her findings have been censored by a government-backed history journal.

The disclosures and the allegations of censorship have provoked a fresh dispute over Franco-German collaboration under the Nazi occupation. In April 1994, Annie Lacroix-Riz, Professor of Modern History at the University of Toulouse, submitted an article to *Etudes et Documents*, a history journal published under the aegis of the Finance and Economics Ministry, in which she outlined possible links between the French chemical group UGINE and the manufacture of Zyklon B gas used in the Holocaust.

In her study, which the journal refused to publish, Mme Lacroix-Riz cited UGINE's role in the creation of a "mixed" Franco-German company, Durferrit-Sofumi, which earned huge profits by

manufacturing "insecticide" supposedly for killing vermin, between 1941 and 1943.

The company was 49 per cent-owned by Degesch, a German company specialising in "pest control", which was itself 42 per cent-owned by the IG Farben group. The German maker and distributor of Zyklon B, in two years, in the midst of the Holocaust, the funds of Durferrit-Sofumi grew 15-fold. "Did UGINE, via Durferrit-Sofumi and its German guardian Degesch, pro-

duce huge quantities of Zyklon B in France to capture a part of the market in death?" *L'Humanité* asked yesterday.

Claims that the truth of the affair is being hushed up are threatening to turn an historical inquiry into a full-blown political scandal. *Documents et Etudes* took nine months to say that it would not publish Mme Lacroix-Riz's study. The historian Maurice Lévy-Leboyer, a member of the committee for the economic and financial history of France, said the decision was justified because publishing such a study was a "risk".

Marie-Ange Sanparelli, co-ordinator of the journal's governing committee, told *Le Monde*: "Every article is submitted before publication to a commission. With regard to the article in question, we received six unfavourable opinions."

*L'Humanité* condemned the journal's decision as an act of deliberate censorship and Stéphane Combe, the historian and author of *Archives Interdites* (Forbidden Archives), said: "We remain in a culture of

state secrecy." In her article Mme Lacroix-Riz traced "the creation of numerous mixed companies involving French industries or banks and German groups financing the Nazi war effort". She noted that such agreements were made with the directors of such businesses as Paribas, Rhône-Poulenc and Crédit Lyonnais.

France has been notoriously unwilling to open its archives to full investigation, but Mme Lacroix-Riz, a member of the Communist Party and an expert on French financial collaboration with the Nazis, was allowed access to many hitherto sealed documents as well as to British, German and American sources. Mme Lacroix-Riz said yesterday: "One of my censors said that the archives must not be put to bad use."

She decided to make public her findings and the journal's rejection after receiving anonymous and threatening letters. One was addressed to Annie Lacroix-Riz, "who wants to make us believe that the supposed gas chambers are not a Hollywood lie".



Dr. Dirk Sündrahm with some of the Wettin treasure yesterday. "It is a sensational find," he said. "I feel as if I have been struck by lightning."

## Treasure-hunter finds gold saved from Red Army

FROM ROGER BOYES  
IN DRESDEN

GERMANY'S amateur treasure-hunters were in a state of excitement yesterday after officials unveiled a hoard of gold and silver hidden 50 years ago from Red Army looters.

The treasure, swathed in oilcloth and buried in three crates near a Saxon castle, was discovered by a man with a metal detector. "It is a sensational find," said Dr. Dirk Sündrahm, director of the Green Vault treasure chamber in Dresden. "I feel as if I have been struck by lightning."

The hoard contains about 150 pieces and includes some exquisite examples of the craft of Saxon goldsmiths. One goblet in the shape of a Moor's head is attributed to Wenzel Jamnitzer, the 16th-century craftsman. Another cup is in the shape of a griffin's claw. Less valuable but still impressive is a 19th-century silver table service and a large collection of rare 19th and 20th-century coins and medals.

The crates were buried in the grounds of Wettin Castle, north of Dresden, in the dying days of the Second World War. The Soviet NKVD, the forerunner of the KGB, had set up trophy units. The one assigned to the Dresden area was led by Major Natalia Sokolova, an art historian. Her unit searched several castles and found Rembrandts, a Titan and a Raphael, as well as tonnes of jewellery and gold pieces. The Red Army found most of the Wettin Castle hoard, but the treasure-hunter who found the three remaining crates may be in for a disappointment: he was searching without the requisite licence.

## Russia plans new tax to bail out mutinous army

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA said yesterday that it was planning a new "army tax" in an effort to fund its crumbling armed forces and prevent a threatened mutiny by disgruntled soldiers.

"People will just stop going to work," he said. "Instead they will start making money or selling what they guard — things like ammunition depots. I understand the West's alarm when uncontrollable processes begin in a country like Russia with its huge arsenals of strategic weapons."

One of the biggest casualties of the military crisis is the plan to reduce the 1.5-million strong conscript army and turn it into a professional force by the end of the century. General Rodionov and Yuri Baturin, the security expert in charge of army reform, have issued a warning that the changes cannot be completed by 2005.

## Concordski back on track

MOSCOW: The Concordski, a supersonic passenger jet mothballed since the 1970s, is coming out of retirement. The Tupolev 144D, a revamped version of the needle-nosed Tu-144, will begin a series of NASA high-speed flight experiments this month, aimed at developing this supersonic civil transport.

The refurbished model can carry up to 300 passengers and is capable of traveling at almost two and a half times the speed of sound. The American space agency is a partner in the venture. (AP)

## Belgian child murder hunt focuses on mine

FROM LEYLA LINTON IN BRUSSELS

POLICE searching for more bodies in the paedophile murder scandal have found a suspicious wooden beam concealing stonework in an abandoned mineshaft in the Jumet suburb of Charleroi.

Digging in the mine began last Friday and was continuing last night after Marc Dutroux, main suspect, had told police they would find something "interesting" there. On the two previous occasions when Mr Dutroux used that description, girls' bodies were found. Police are hunting for at least seven other children.

The 2ft by 19in beam found by police is made of an exotic wood not normally used in

The following quotations, taken from National and International press articles, confirm that the Internet does not work efficiently for business.

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- "a waste of corporate time"
- "the ordinary Web is a dead technology"

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# Afghan warlord halts advance of Taliban forces

FIGHTING broke out for the first time last night between the Taliban Islamic militia and the forces of General Abdul Rashid Dostum, the Uzbek warlord who controls six northern Afghan provinces. There were reports that one city controlled by the Taliban might have fallen.

This means Taliban, already thinly spread, is battling on two fronts. Its spectacular military advance seems finally to have been halted.

There seems some possibility of a military link-up between General Dostum's 20,000 men and the forces of the old Kabul Government ousted by Taliban nearly two weeks ago. Burhanuddin Rabbani, the former President, who fled north as the invaders closed in, has met the general in the northern city of Mazar-e Sharif. The two men, former enemies, hugged publicly.

Taliban is continuing its assault on the vanquished government forces, who have retreated to their Panjshir Valley base. A few miles away, at the Salang Pass, Taliban troops were confronted by



**Christopher Thomas** writes from Kabul that the Taliban militia, already thinly spread, is battling on two fronts

General Dostum's forces yesterday south of the strategic Salang tunnel, the gateway from the north to the south. A combined assault against Taliban, who insisted in negotiations that he must give up control of the north and allow Afghanistan to be united, Taliban commanders boasted that unless he laid down his weapons he would be attacked. He has now preempted Taliban and late last night it appeared that fighting was intense.

The general has huge resources, including fighter planes and long-range weapons. He is hated by Taliban because he was a commander in the former Communist regime, ousted by American-backed Mujahidin in April 1992. He has a reputation for brutality. General Dostum may merely be trying to clear the area south of the Salang

lished a small presence south of the tunnel, which sat uneasily alongside heavy concentrations of Taliban, who insisted in negotiations that he must give up control of the north and allow Afghanistan to be united. Taliban commanders boasted that unless he laid down his weapons he would be attacked. He has now preempted Taliban and late last night it appeared that fighting was intense.

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tunnel to secure his northern bases. The Salang highway, which connects Kabul to Dostum's headquarters in the northern city of Mazar-e Sharif, is a vital all-weather road. With snow already falling in the north, control of the road — and especially the tunnel — is vital.

Mr Rabban said in a satellite telephone interview with Iranian television that he was rallying forces to try to drive the Taliban out of the north. This latest twist of events ensures that war will continue in Afghanistan, which has not seen peace for 17 years. The assault on the Panjshir Valley,

intense for the first few days after it started last Saturday, now seems almost lackadaisical, perhaps reflecting Taliban's growing fear that it is overstretched.

The forces of General Ahmed Shah Massoud, military chief of the ousted regime, have started wearing old East



Members of the Taliban militia watch yesterday as one of their helicopters attacks the forces of the ousted Afghan regime in the Panjshir Valley

German winter military uniforms, bought cheaply on the open market, giving them a distinct advantage over the ill-equipped Taliban enemy as the temperature plunges. Artillery bombardment can continue throughout the winter, but Taliban will be hard-pressed to sustain the kind of

infantry operation that would be necessary to overwhelm the Panjshir when there are several feet of snow.

Mr Rabban has been trying to set up a meeting with General Dostum. They have spoken on their satellite phones and envoys from both sides have had direct talks.



## Aid agencies push mullahs to relax policy on women

BY CHRISTOPHER THOMAS

INTERNATIONAL aid agencies in Afghanistan warned the Taliban Islamic regime yesterday to relax its severe restrictions on women, which have disrupted humanitarian work and halted crucial aid projects. Afghanistan is now probably the world's poorest country, with out resources to help itself.

The hostility of aid organisations to Taliban has stunned its six-man ruling *shura* (council), made up of hardline mullahs who have closed girls' schools and ordered women to stay at home except when shopping. The council has also been shaken by a warning from America that Taliban cannot expect to receive international recognition or foreign aid while it continues its extremist policies against women.

Oxfam, the British aid organisation, has suspended its Kabul operations until women are allowed to work. As a last resort Oxfam would withdraw from the capital.

"Women would like to fight this but they are not confident enough to go on the streets," Sue Emmott, Oxfam's country representative, said. "They will not accept this. They are very angry."

Aid agencies yesterday met Mullah Muhammad Ghaus, Taliban's acting Foreign Minister, to submit a joint request for women to be allowed to work. He appealed to them not to force Afghanistan to adopt ways of life that are "contrary to our national traditions".

During the private, 90-minute meeting he declared that on his visits to the West he had been saddened by the sight of women who worked in hotels. They had seemed tired. At home, he went on.

Leading article, page 19

## Turkish leader flies into new controversy

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

TURKEY'S Islamist Prime Minister, Necmettin Erbakan, yesterday met General Sani Abacha, the military ruler of Nigeria, on the last stop of a controversial tour of pariah nations that has outraged Turkey's Western allies and many Turkish politicians.

Mr Erbakan arrived from Libya after a disastrous visit that ended in sharp criticism by Colonel Muammar Gaddafi of Turkey's policy towards the Kurds. Mr Erbakan said Turkey would step up its imports of Nigerian liquefied natural gas. He took four ministers with him to discuss a draft protocol to boost Turk-

ish trade, exchanges and tourism with Nigeria.

Mr Erbakan's visit to Nigeria, with its large Muslim population, follows another controversial visit to Iran which, like Libya, is subject to American sanctions. Nigeria has been suspended from the Commonwealth because of its poor record on human rights and democracy. Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State, on Monday sought support from the Commonwealth for sanctions on Nigeria.

Mr Erbakan's visits have led to calls in Turkey for his resignation.



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## Bus conductor is guide on Peking's route to reform

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING

CHINA'S leaders have enlisted the help of a Peking bus conductor to boost their drive for "spiritual civilisation".

The Communist Party central committee has begun a key meeting behind closed doors to codify the new creed in an effort to fill an ideological vacuum left by economic reforms and the abandonment of socialist values.

The ideas are embodied by Li Shuli, a bus conductor on Peking's route 21, who is being held up as an example to the people.

There is nothing spiritual about "spiritual civilisation" in a state run by an officially atheist party. However, they are the watchwords of Jiang Zemin, 70, the President and party boss and de facto ruler of China, who wants to solidify his position as heir to Deng Xiaoping, 92, the ailing paramount leader who has not been seen publicly for more than two years.

A crackdown on religion has been taking place as the spiritual civilisation drive gets under way. In the days leading up to the annual plenum of the party elite, the *People's Daily*, the party's flagship, and other newspapers have been using an old Maoist tactic to try to win peoples' hearts and minds: that of singing the praises of supposed model workers like Miss Li, dedicated plumbers, selfless well-diggers and model tax collectors.

"The aim is to make a more civilised, responsible China," one Chinese official says.

The trouble is, China is a society where Peking taxi-drivers listen to country and western music in their cabs and where the elite send their children to Western universities. It is a land of cellular telephones, computers, karaoke, sex for sale, corruption, crime, and worship of money. "Chinese are growing up."



Supporters of the opposition New Frontier Party waving to their leader, Ichiro Ozawa, as he sets off on a bus at the start of his campaign

## Japanese election bandwagon gets under way

TOKYO: On the first day of Japan's election campaign Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Prime Minister, yesterday promised to reinvigorate the economy and trim a bloated bureaucracy if his Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) is returned to power on October 20 (Robert Whymann writes).

Opinion polls show that the LDP, the largest of three parties in the ruling coalition, has the highest level of support, with a clear lead over the Shinshinto, the biggest opposition group. But it appears unlikely that the Liberal Democrats can muster the 251 seats required for an absolute majority. And while he is riding high nationally, Mr Hashimoto might suffer the ignominy of defeat in his own constituency.

The election is the first to be held under new rules in which each constituency has only one representative rather than several. Two hundred seats of the 500 at stake will be decided by proportional representation.

A real fight is developing between

Mr Hashimoto and a former Agriculture Minister, Mutsumi Kato, who is running under the banner of the opposition Shinshinto.

"You may feel it is unthinkable for the Prime Minister to be defeated," Mr Hashimoto's brother, Daijirō, told supporters. "But the unthinkable can happen with this new system."

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Kiss of life thwarts suicide

#### Chinese rearrest pro-Tibet dissident

By JAMES PRINGLE

Madrid: A Spanish ambulance worker yesterday turned a man back from the brink of a messy suicide by giving him the kind of kiss of life not found in medical manuals (Tunku Varadarajan writes).

Carmen Montiel tried for more than an hour to talk a young man from throwing himself off a city viaduct. When all her efforts appeared to have failed she said: "If you have to jump, won't you kiss me before you go?" As he leaned over to kiss her, she pulled him from the edge.

#### UN cuts jobs

Geneva: The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has decided to shed 250 posts at its headquarters here and to stop recruiting people outside the agency in a cost-cutting drive. (AFP)

#### Rebels kill nine

Muslim guerrillas attacked a bus killing nine people in the southern Algerian town of Ksar el-Hirane. In a separate incident, a teenager was killed in a grenade attack on a school. (Reuters)

#### Pupil shot dead

Brussels: A 15-year-old burst into his school classroom in Brussels and shot dead a 14-year-old classmate with an automatic pistol after the two had an argument in the playground. (Reuters)

#### Guerrillas defect

Battambang: Hundreds of hardline Khmer Rouge guerrillas have agreed to join Cambodian government forces in another blow to the weakening Maoist faction led by Pol Pot. (Reuters)

#### Bermuda stands by to repel illegal migrants

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

BERMUDA'S military force has been put on standby for the first time in ten years after a cargo ship packed with Chinese migrants hit trouble at sea.

The Canton-registered *Xing Da*, carrying suspected would-be illegal immigrants to America, was towed to Bermuda after her engine failed 140 miles west of the British dependent territory.

Waiving ashore, boots polished and muscles flexed, were 100 members of the Bermuda Regiment, delighted to have been called to arms by their commander-in-chief and Governor, Lord Waddington, Home Secretary in the final Thatcher government.

The 600-strong part-time regiment's last taste of action

was in 1987, when its infantry joined in the clean-up after Hurricane Emily.

Its mission yesterday was to ensure that none of the Chinese disembarked from the ship, which berthed at the sheltered Murray's Anchorage two miles offshore. The ship was towed to Bermuda waters by a US Coast Guard cutter, after her engineers failed to restart the vessel's engines. When a seasonal low front whipped up dangerous seas, it was decided to seek sanctuary.

There were reports of undisciplined behaviour aboard the 221ft *Xing Da* and a plot by some of the 26 crew, who were said to include Triad gang members, to scuttle the ship. The 83 passengers had suffered a storm-tossed few days, but the men of the Bermuda Regiment, steadfast in their trademark short trousers, were there to ensure none made it to land.

A one-mile no-go area around the *Xing Da* was enforced by Bermuda government patrol boats and it was made clear that if the passengers had to go ashore because of the weather, they would immediately be flown off the island.

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# Sheer summer luxury



JOHN RICHMOND: tie belt



DOLCE &amp; GABBANA: revealing firm dresses



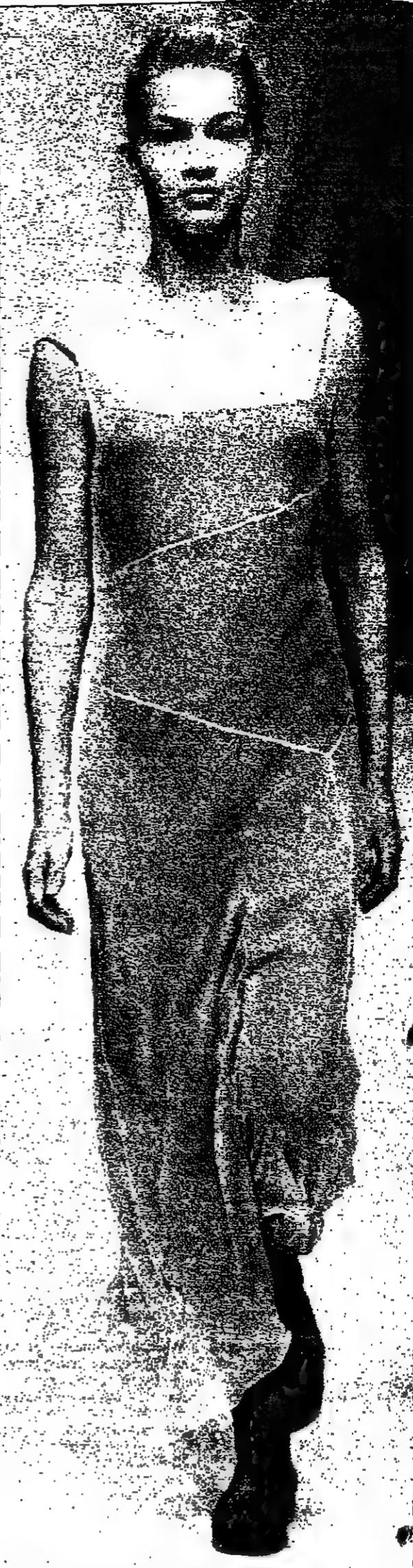
GIORGIO ARMANI: featherweight beadwork



PRADA: Oriental tourist



GIANNI VERSACE: frills



ALBERTA FERRETTI: the prettiest clothes of all



GIANFRANCO FERRE: crisp

**B**y the fourth day of Milan Fashion Week which ended on Sunday evening, the woman sitting next to me looked a little perplexed. "Just what am I supposed to wear next summer?" she asked.

The models parading on the catwalks in front of us at the Dolce & Gabbana show were dressed in perfectly pretty dresses made from layers of chiffon with waistlines raised to under the bosom. They were sometimes patterned with ivy leaves, sometimes covered with leopard print, but whatever the look they were invariably flimsy enough to reveal the underwear: big knickers were a big trend in Italy this season.

The lingerie industry must have been rubbing its hands together in glee as such glamorous little nothings turned up on practically all the catwalks in Milan.

This was fashion at its most directional, sign-posting the overriding mood of the season: the future (or at least next summer) looks decidedly femi-

nine. Flills, flesh-pink foundation colours and flapper dresses were universal, as were roses and ruffles, but what of the question posed by the young woman beside me? Well, if you buy just one new item of clothing next season it had better be a white trouser suit. Almost every designer had one in their collection, and the new fluid silhouette fitted perfectly with the feminine mood.

The trouser suit came in white linen at Genny while Gianfranco Ferré showed several styles, the best in white piqué cotton. John Richmond's was buttonless with a tie belt. Single-button jackets were popular with Laurel and Anna Molinari. Alternatively Maruccia Mandelli at Krizia favoured a double-breasted version. Lawrence Steele presented a longer-line jacket with hidden buttons, and Jil

## MILAN

*Fashion journalist of the year*



IAIN R. WEBB

Sander remained true to her minimalist ethos — her trouser suit was altogether devoid of any kind of fastening.

Giorgio Armani cut a trouser suit for his Emporio line in fluid white jersey, while at MaxMara the look was more structured with a top-stitched outline. The Sportmax show featured an abbreviated A-line jacket (with bracelet length sleeves) in white or white brocade which looked like a couture find from the Fifties. This nostalgic feeling was extremely popular.

Not everyone followed suit. The only things white at Missoni were the pristine T-shirt and matching knickers which opened the otherwise crazy colour-filled show. Tai and Rosita Missoni's zigzag knits still looked fresh, now coloured golden browns and baby blues, lilac, wine and jade. For evening, little knitted bikini tops and long split skirts were covered with a glossy coat of clear sequins.

Tom Ford at Gucci certainly likes women to look shiny, from their wet-look hair to their faces sprinkled with star-dust. Narrow trousers were split at the ankle (a little young) and skirts split high on the thigh (a little tarty). Ford

offered a sexy new silhouette — a strapless dress, baggy around the waistline yet snug across the bottom. He also showed ultrafine knits, gorgeous suede, lurex and velvet in sombre shades of chocolate, navy, dark emerald, ruby and silver grey. However, the image is starting to look a touch Eighties Eurotrash.

Jil Sander's silhouette was similar to Ford's. Her strapless dress came in black, while navy blue sweaters tucked into A-line wrap skirts. She showed creamy knits, buff suede and tan leather (punched with tiny holes) mixed with unusual stabs of colour — a long raspberry pink chiton dress under an ivory jacket; a Gitanes-blue back-belted dress; and red turned-up trousers under a black see-through dress. Best of all was a white crumpled T-shirt tucked into silvery white jumbo bag trousers.

**P**radà made a pretty show with (still) lots of lingerie-look dresses, but never was the mix of crisp military tailoring in buff and navy blue with sumptuous Chinoiserie — Mao-collared jackets and calf-length wrap skirts.

The Orient was an inspiration for everyone. At Dolce & Gabbana Wedgewood blue willow-patterned silk was cut into ankle-length wrap skirts and sexy dresses. These were worn with leopard print and more roses. Sportmax continued the East meets West theme with patterned kimono coats worn with flower wrap skirts, while simple one-shouldered jersey tops were shown alongside sheer dresses covered with cherry blossom. Even though Sportmax is essentially a mid-market line it was put together with such style that it worked better than some of its more directional counterparts.

Both Gianni Versace and Giorgio Armani embraced the spirit of the moment and made

it look effortless. At Versace frills looked utterly wearable cut in lilac, grey and black jersey, while see-through dresses were heavily patterned and appliquéd with colourful flowers to make them decent. A little grey and pink jersey dress with a fluted hemline captured the essence of the season without any fuss.

**M**eanwhile, Giorgio Armani used featherweight fabrics for his mainline collection. He continued to perfect his softer-than-soft tailoring, but it was the finale of flesh-coloured, diaphanous dresses (often teamed with trousers, giving them an Eastern feel), exquisitely headed with trailing flowers, which was breathtaking. It seems Armani can make even a dress weighed down with tens of thousands of beads look positively fragile.

But there was still one show in Milan where everything — the frills, the lace, the see-through fabrics and pallid colour palette — fitted into place. Alberta Ferretti's mainline collection was the best example this season of how fashion can (and should) be directional and wearable simultaneously.

By adding a black slip and black opaque tights under her pretty nothing dresses, Ferretti didn't need the big knickers.

The look was Empress Josephine meets Gwyneth Paltrow with a touch of Madame Butterfly thrown in for good measure — an empire-line shift worn under a suede jacket, delicate yet decidedly modern. A kimono wrap dress looked easy in creamy matt silk. Little white fine cotton sundresses were a patchwork of panels, while a series of black organza tie-front dresses with cut-out flowers stitched around the dipping hemline were simply divine.

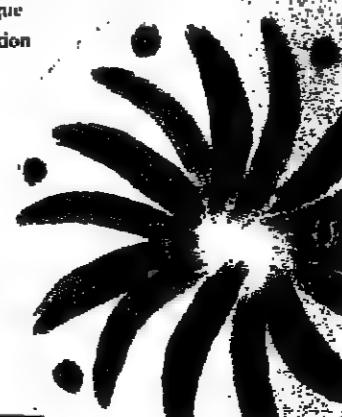
In fact, Ferretti's collection was so desirable that my female companion turned to me at the end of the show and said: "I want to wear everything." Roll on 1997 for a summer of sheer luxury.

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# Why I am a monetary agnostic

There is more to Europe than the euro, says Douglas Hurd

The angriest arguments in politics often take place within parties. Arguments between parties can be resolved by a general election or a parliamentary vote. Arguments within parties fester unsolved until events make them irrelevant. Before this happens they create the maximum ill-will — and the bad arguments that go with bad temper. So it is at present with the Conservative Party over Europe. So it would be with the Labour Party over Europe were it ever elected to government. In opposition, it is easier to disguise dissent; in government decisions have to be taken and discussion brought to a head.

At the heart of these divisions in both main parties is the proposal for a single currency. The other concerns and opportunities for Britain in Europe tend to be forgotten as the focus narrows and the temperature rises. The feverish nature of our debate on Europe is now seriously undermining British influence in the European Union.

When our well-wishers in the rest of Europe read suggestions here that the BSE crisis was invented by continentalists to destroy the British beef industry, or that one of the main aims of the European Court is to deluge Britain in pork, or that Helmut Kohl shares the aims of Adolf Hitler, they sigh and hope for a return to sense by their old British friend. Our proposals for reform of European institutions will not get a serious hearing if there is a suspicion that we intend not to strengthen but to cripple them.

I have never myself advocated a single European currency. On the economic side there is a crucial unanswered question. It is now likely that the economies of at least seven or eight European countries will converge sufficiently in this century for a political decision to be taken to create the euro. But this dogged effort, including some once-and-for-all devices, will not mean that the economies and societies have genuinely and permanently converged. What is the remedy when the strains of divergence show? What at the beginning seems a palace might turn out to be a prison.

My second concern is wider. Currency stability brings huge benefits. But it is drastic to achieve such benefit by abolishing national currencies and so distorting the nature of millions of daily transactions by our citizens. The wit of man should have devised a means of currency stability without preventing old ladies from shopping in pounds or marks as they have done all their lives. The Cabinet was right last April to promise a referendum if it decided in the next Parliament that it was in Britain's interests to join.

So it is reasonable at this stage to be agnostic about a single currency, and to support the Cabinet's decision to keep open the freedom to join or stay out which the Prime Minister negotiated at Maastricht. As he has often argued,

What at first seems a palace may turn out a prison

British and French Governments have proposed.

In completing the single market — for example in telecommunications, energy and aviation — the Commission is our ally. We should encourage it to move faster, but that means treating it as a friend, not an enemy. The EU is moving away from subsidies and other protective devices — too slowly but in the right direction. Britain, which has already privatised and liberalised under Conservative Governments, stands to benefit greatly from the gradual opening of continental markets.

Somehow we have to return to a balanced and total view of British interests in Europe. There is no electoral advantage in picking unnecessary quarrels. We can fight our corner most robustly if our partners understand that we want the partnership to succeed. Only then do our concerns and difficulties carry conviction.

There is a real danger that for lack of this wide view we shall see the gradual unravelling of the most successful exercise in co-operation which Europe has ever seen. Our concept of an effective European partnership of nations, with the supranational institutions needed to police the single market, has greater support among the peoples of Europe than now appears. If we can shake off our own spasms of fear and prejudice we will find the task of persuasion much easier.

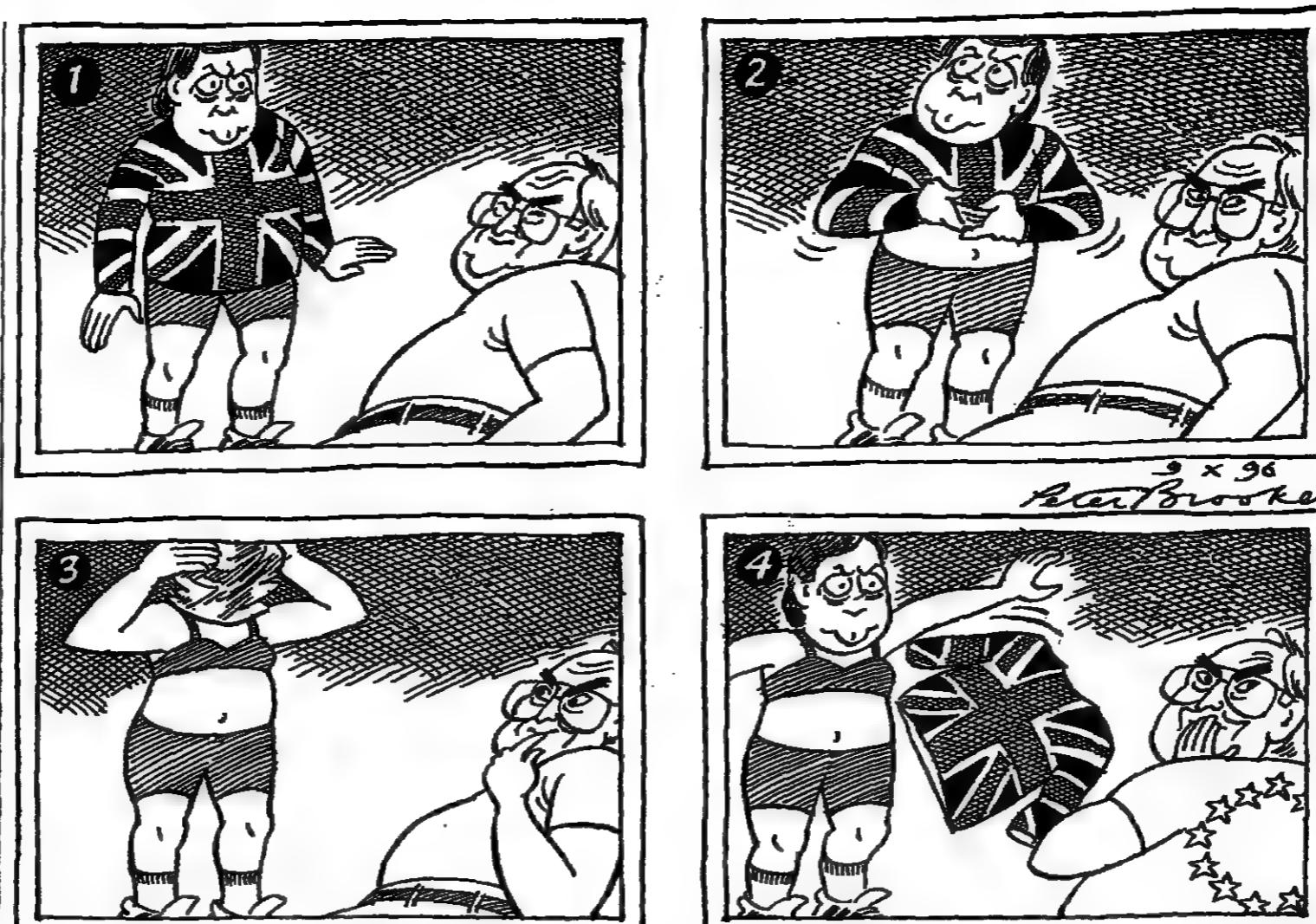
The author was Foreign Secretary, 1989-95.

circulated to his staff yesterday:

"To be blunt, we usually win on guests and we are the dominant programme in our time-slot. This means we have an obligation to behave decently towards our colleagues and to build a reputation for co-operation, so I won't tolerate the sort of behaviour which went on in Bournemouth this morning, no matter how great the pressure or provocation. Got that?"



"Have you seen Hogg?"



9 x 96  
Peter Brookes

**EXCLUSIVE! That secret video romp in full...**

# Major can do no other

If the Prime Minister's critics want him to win, they must back him

John Major is a good Surrey man. I am sure this week he will be pondering the words of that other son of Surrey, William of Ockham: *Frustra fit per plura, quod potest fieri per pauciora*. Too many cooks spoil the broth. Stick to the essentials, says Ockham's theorem. Or in the American Marine translation: "Keep it simple, stupid."

Mr Major wishes to win the next election. He has the economy in good shape. The generals in charge of his domestic front are more or less in line. It is too late now to change the command or tear up the order of battle, however poor it looks. All systems are go. Yet "Europe" lurks round every corner. It blackens every discussion and gatecrashes every party. Europe is Mr Major's dull ache, his ghastly relative. It will not go away.

I have been a sceptic about the Common Market for longer than I can remember. I watched the craven Europhilia of such sceptic converts as Margaret Thatcher, Michael Howard and Norman Lamont as they campaigned for a "Yes to Europe" in the Seventies and voted through every concession to Brussels. Ask me whether I would join the European monetary union and I would say no. I have just read a million words on the subject, and I still say no. Those wishing a recap should try Christopher Johnson's pro-EMU *In with the Euro: Out with the Pound* (Penguin). They should then read Patrick Minford's anti-EMU *Britain and Europe: the Balance Sheet* (New European). Minford is convincing. John Major is not.

In a nutshell, the economic benefits of a currency union, as opposed to a free-trade union, are trivial or can be achieved by sovereign self-discipline. As Minford argues, monetary union will make rigid the political economies of its member states. The shifts in population or subsidy required to counteract an imbalance in national economies will not be tolerated by member democracies. The system will break, as inter-state currency unions have broken in the past. The 19th-century Latin and Scandinavian currency unions broke, as did the gold standard. Bretton Woods and more recently the exchange-rate mechanism. The law is simple. Market disciplines work until market disciplines don't work.

I sense that the Prime Minister agrees. But that is not the question he has to ask himself. His critics fantasise that if either Sir Edward Heath or Baroness Thatcher were leading the party "we would all know where we stood". This is rubbish. Chief among the plotters who threw out both leaders were those bitterly opposed to their stance on Europe. Margaret Thatcher twisted and contorted and finally capitulated to her foes in her effort to balance her Cabinet. It did her no good. She joined the ERM and lost a Chancellor and Deputy Prime Minister into the bargain.

The Tories, mirroring the British electorate, have always dealt their leader a fiendish hand on Europe. They refuse to contemplate withdrawal from the EU. Britons want to be part of a free-trade area, but one from which they can gain much and to which they contribute little. They are rightly suspicious of that other European states have other intentions and will move quickly to political union. They therefore want reassurance, and require their leaders, when "in Europe", to be bloody-minded, cantankerous, sceptical and chесcapering — yet always short of withdrawal.

All Tory leaders have found this a tough political challenge. None has emerged unscathed. Margaret Thatcher's acceptance of the Single European Act paved the way for Maastricht. Mr Major and his team were appalled by much of what was in Maastricht, and by the manner of its passage. He negotiated the opt-outs, which now stand to Britain's advantage and leave open the "maybe" on monetary union and the social chapter. I believe he made a mistake in not putting the Maastricht treaty to a referendum. But he has now agreed to put monetary union to a referendum, should he win the election, take leave of his senses and advocate British membership.

The present demands of the Eurosceptics are mystifying. The so-called Referendum Party wanted a referendum when Mr Major was reluctant to concede one. When he did concede, it did not declare victory, but simply mutated its demand into a referen-

endum on a "wider question" about a "European superstate". It has still not written the question, and so not defined its real disagreement with the Tory Cabinet. This seems a flimsy basis on which to found a new political movement, let alone to mount an election campaign that can only help to bring in a Labour government and everything that new party professes to oppose.

Politics is often daft, but this is idiotic. The question Mr Major has to ask himself is not whether he believes in monetary union but whether it is judicious, with an election in the offing, to force a decision on his Cabinet. This seems a flimsy basis on which to found a new political movement, let alone to mount an election campaign that can only help to bring in a Labour government and everything that new party professes to oppose.

Mr Major does not have the option that the Eurosceptics are pressing on him. At every turn — during Maastricht, during the ratification debate, the ERM collapse, the referendum commitment — he has doggedly met his remit, to proceed in Europe with minimum enthusiasm and maximum obstruction. But any party leader has a remit that overrides even this one. It is to respect what is the necessary, if not the sufficient, condition for success at an election, the unity of his Cabinet.

No political task has given Mr Major more anguish than maintaining this unity. Nothing damaged Margaret Thatcher more than her apparent failure to keep her Cabinet colleagues alongside her. With the bizarre exception of John Redwood, Mr Major has succeeded, despite near intolerable pressure from the extremes to drive him off his chosen course of compromise.

A political party is a political organism. When its members see a crash ahead — as most Tories now do — they instinctively begin evasive action. They wonder what other driver might extricate them afterwards. The candidates for this job understandably cannot stop themselves crying "Look at me". Human beings can stand only so much humility, but Mr Major is in this battle for life or death. His critics might want him gone, or want him different, or wish he had never existed. But if they want their party to win, they cannot quarrel with his achievement on Europe. He has held his party in line, ragged, squabbling, nervous, but in a line. In this matter, rather than over devolution or in Ulster, I believe history will grant him the title of statesman. It is the statesmanship of Maybe, and Ockham would have approved.

Sometimes fudge is a politician's most valued commodity. On Europe, Mr Major has had to serve it up in some pretty odd dishes, including the pretence in Saturday's Times that the monetary union issue is still not clear and so a decision would be "premature". He was on stronger ground in demanding that we continue to negotiate on "ins and outs", on the stabilisation fund, on enlargement, and, most important, on Britain's response in the event of monetary union going ahead without us. Presumably we will want to give our partners some assurance on central bank co-operation and exchange-rate stability after monetary union. It must make sense to stick with such negotiations for the time being. There

nature, he had insisted beforehand that a hoarding be placed around his seat so that nosy-parkers wouldn't be able to spot him.

Extra care was taken to meet his ridiculous demands after rumours spread that he has plans to make a film version of Lionel Bart's musical. In a visionary move, Jackson is said to be considering himself for the juvenile lead. Forever young, heh?

## Fagin it

THE THEATRE management laid on special arrangements at the Palladium the other night for Michael Jackson, the reorganised popstar, who had dropped into see Oliver!

Jackson took over the Royal Box but in keeping with his reclusive



Jackson privacy first

down to a boat out at sea — as far as possible from the pitchfork-wielding mob that has been marching angrily and goading the Hogglet outside the Bournemouth conference centre.

Extra care was taken to meet his ridiculous demands after rumours spread that he has plans to make a film version of Lionel Bart's musical. In a visionary move, Jackson is said to be considering himself for the juvenile lead. Forever young, heh?

## Wood you?

A ROMANTIC dinner with his wife, Serena, at the Savoy last night, on their third wedding anniversary, will have come as a welcome break for Viscount Linley, whose mother so brusquely returned a bunch of flowers he had been sent by the Duchess of York.

He is in the throes of setting up a business in Yorkshire and has been scouting for talent in the county. With his partner, Mark Whiteley, he is looking for workers for his furniture factory in the former Normandy Territorial Army barracks at Whitby.

The pair have placed cards in the local jumble sale offering £5-68 per hour, "depending on age and experience", for craftsmen with knowledge of working with hard woods such as oak, sycamore and walnut.



Duchess irrelevant

Not for him the TUC's £4.26 minimum wage.

She may be creating waves elsewhere, but the Duchess of York's giddy behaviour is lost on Professor Ben Pimlott, who launched his biography of the Queen this week. "She's a complete irrelevance," he said. "The average Sun reader knows more than I do about Fergie. Constitutionally, she is completely and utterly meaningless."

Constitutionally extravagant too.

P.H.S

Alan Coren



■ Electronic security? It's a real steal

I used to think I was no more paranoid than the next man. That was before I began thinking about the next man. What does he know about me? What will he do with what he knows, if he does know anything? Tell it to the man next to him? How did he come to know it? And what is it, anyhow? You get thoughts like that, when you get letters like this, it arrived a couple of days ago, from a security company. It said it had been sent to me because I was "a person in the public eye". It had read me in its newspapers, it had heard me on its radio, it had seen me on its TV screen. It had done more than that; it had gone into my background. It knew my fax number, and my mobile phone number, and my unlisted business number, and it knew, chillingly moreover, that what you are reading now was sent to *The Times* from my computer via a modem. It told me it knew that to let me know that it was easy to know. And as the result of my now knowing how easy it is to know, I do not know if you are reading this in *The Times* at all. You may be reading it in *Fancy Rat Weekly* or the *Beijing Beano*, for all I know.

For all I know is that, according to the letter, it is a doddle to patch into my modem. As much of a doddle as it is to eavesdrop on any of my phones, read my faxes or hack into my computer. While this should be a worry to anyone, said the letter, it should be a particular worry to me, because I had intellectual property to protect. I have, of course, always known that, but I have never looked upon it in quite that way. Up until now, I have protected my intellectual property mainly by putting a hat on it when it was raining, because if I caught a cold my intellectual property would not be able to think straight.

But now, I was given to understand, *Fancy Rat Weekly* and the *Beijing Beano* were only two among potentially thousands of villains eager to get their hands on my intellectual property, because electronic robbery was not just a matter of nicking 800 unpaid words from my laptop and sticking them into the thief's own publication, or setting them up on an unofficial Web site, or otherwise fencing them for illicit gain via this unsightly medium or that, it was also a matter of what the letter described as thought-poaching. Which is to say that, for example, I rang Steven Spielberg to tell him I had his terrific idea for an underwater musical based on *King Lear*, when could my people talk to his people, before I had even sent my best wishes to Mrs Spielberg, other people's people would be ringing Andrew Lloyd Webber's people with this terrific idea for an underwater musical based on *King Lear*. It could cost me millions.

Unless — you guessed? — I had had the nous to commission the sender of the letter to bugproof all my technology, install scramblers, set up intercepts, monitor my every cybernetic move. Such intervention would, it went on stably, carry the priceless bonus of simultaneously protecting my private life from the public eye in which I allegedly was, leaving me free to — though it did not specify — phone my toe-sucker of choice, wire bribes to biddable MPs, fax instructions to insider traders, and engage in any such other sub rosa shenanigans which the press and the plot might otherwise find even more engaging.

None of which interests me. What interests me is that my caring correspondent not only seems to have found out a great deal about me, but that, once hired for a fat fee, he would very soon know everything else. Quis, in short, custos? I am an intellectual property owner, now. I look at my phone, thinking: whom dare I call? I look at my keyboard, thinking: what dare I type? I look at my fax, thinking: what dare I send? And I look at my letter, thinking: if I invited these freaks to listen in on who and what, I would never thereafter dare anything at all.

Should I pull all the plugs, and go back to quill and stamps? Only if I have faith in a thousand postmen. Motorbike messengers? Be serious! Trust friends? Paranooids do not have friends. I tell you, if I had now to bring the good news from Ghent to Aix, I would spring to the stirrup alone. How well do I know this Dirc? What kind of a name is Joris?



## TOUGH TRUTHS

The Home Secretary's package deserves support

It is a measure of Michael Howard's political success that the grudging applause and calls for the rope which used to greet the Home Secretary at Conservative Party conferences have been replaced by a genuine enthusiasm. Mr Howard again showed a shrewd sensitivity to Tory concerns yesterday. Not all his proposals may make it to the statute book before the general election, but the bulk of the legislation promised deserves support.

Mr Howard's speech concentrated on practical remedies for perceived inadequacies in the criminal law but he prefaced his announcements with an assault on relativist attempts to explain away crime by searching for external "causes". He insisted that crime was a matter of individual responsibility and asserted that the best school of virtue was the home. He went on to defend parents' rights to discipline their children. His defence may have won extra accolades with a sideswipe at the European Court of Human Rights but it was no less welcome for that. It is an erosion, not an extension, of rights to prevent parents keeping order in a firm yet humane way.

The Home Secretary's most substantial new policy announcements covered drugs, juvenile crime and sex offences. The proposal to shut any club where a chief police officer had evidence of a serious drug problem should concentrate the minds of owners prepared to acquiesce in dealing and also save police time. Also worthwhile is the proposal to allow youth courts discretion to name convicted offenders. The principle has already been established. Any juvenile whose offence is serious enough to find himself in Crown Court can already be identified. The new power given to magistrates should be used sparingly but the ability to shame juveniles adds to the armoury the courts need to deter them.

Since he asserted at a previous conference

that "prison works", Mr Howard has been attacked by liberals for an over-reliance on incarceration in dealing with crime. His words marked a welcome reversal of years of Home Office orthodoxy which held that the main index of success was not crime figures dropping, but the prison population declining. Mr Howard has ensured that his department's priority is now protecting the public, not making life easier for offenders. But his speech yesterday indicated that he is not a one-club player. His plan to extend the power of the courts to disqualify drivers, like the naming of juveniles in certain circumstances, shows imagination.

The bulk of Mr Howard's proposals for dealing with sexual offences have already been unveiled. Minimum sentences were trailed last year, included in last session's White Paper and will be the centrepiece of the next session's Crime Bill. Measures to tackle paedophilia, including a national register of child sex offenders and a prohibition on paedophiles working with the young, were first floated in a consultation paper this June and it is no surprise but altogether welcome that the Government will seek to enact them.

Perhaps the most problematic new legislation covers stalking. Mr Howard hopes to create a new civil remedy of molestation and two new criminal offences for behaviour which might cause a person to believe immediate violence would be used against them or they would suffer harassment. Stalking has caused many women severe distress but any new law would have to be framed with care to ensure that it protected without offering the vindictive a new weapon. Mr Howard's activist tenure at the Home Office has seen debate move decisively in the direction of the victim. He must be careful not to create new categories in his anxiety to protect those he has already identified as deserving of help.

## THE REPUBLICAN TRAP

Despite provocation loyalists should keep their discipline

The attack on the Army headquarters in Lisburn was as unsuitable in its political message as in the callous brutality it displayed towards the lives of innocent people. After a period of considerable confusion as to which particular republican terrorist organisation was responsible, the IRA finally admitted to their role. The instant suspicions of Sir Patrick Mayhew and others were thus justified. Even by their own standards this bombing showed a complete disregard for the likely casualties. The peace process looks more vulnerable than ever before.

The strategy of the terrorists is straightforward. Since the Docklands bombing they have pursued a policy of selective violence aimed at high-profile institutions of the British State. Until now these assaults have been confined to the British mainland. Their objective is to cause spectacular damage while at the same time not completely precluding the possibility of a second ceasefire if invited to the negotiating table with minimal conditions attached. However, the principal drive has been to return to the armed struggle in a manner that maximises their advantage within Northern Ireland. Although alienated by recent events, the vast majority of Roman Catholics would be appalled if the Provisionals were the first to reintroduce indiscriminate killing of civilians within the Province.

The republican leadership knows that well and has sought to induce loyalist paramilitaries into making the first move. Given the recent success of Britain's police and intelligence forces in anticipating their operations and arresting their operatives, the terrorists badly needed to re-establish their credibility as a fighting force. Sadly,

## WOMEN AND ISLAM

Afghanistan does not represent the whole Muslim world

The Taliban, the Islamic zealots who now rule Kabul, yesterday insisted that they would not retreat from their harsh restrictions on women's rights. Not only do women now have to veil themselves completely when going outside, but all those in the Afghan capital are effectively under house arrest, forbidden to work, forbidden to be seen in the company of any unrelated males and risking a flogging for showing themselves even if only to go shopping. "Islam does not accept change," the acting Minister of Information declared, appropriating to himself the right to speak for the world's one billion Muslims and to attribute to his co-religionists the most narrow-minded interpretation of Islamic law.

Millions of Muslims will be embarrassed by his remarks. On the very day that this benighted spokesman was attempting to banish women back to the Middle Ages, Kuwaiti women were demonstrating for the right to vote during the Emir's general election. Women make up more than half the small state's population, and a growing number are determined to resist the encroachments of fundamentalism. nearer to Afghanistan, Iranian officials have condemned the Taliban as reactionaries, calling their treatment of women unprincipled and verging on the misogynist.

That such condemnation should come from Iran is revealing. For despite its export of revolution and opposition to the West, Iran's Islamic Government has wrought a

social revolution. Women are still subject to enforced veiling and the whims of religious zealots; but their education, work opportunities and access to family planning clinics have improved considerably. The reason lies partly in the sophistication of society, where a middle class remembers the Westernised lifestyle under the Shah, but also a soaring birthrate that has convinced the Government of the need to improve women's rights as the best way of limiting families.

All this is in stark contrast to Afghanistan — ironically one of the first Muslim countries to propose votes for women as long ago as 1921, though legislation did not follow. Even in Algeria, however, where the revolutionaries of 30 years ago gave women an unprecedented role in fighting the French, women are now having their throats slit by Islamists determined to enforce their own myopic view of the Sharia.

In Malaysia, by contrast, women, empowered by the opportunities offered by information technology, are entering the workforce in unprecedented numbers. This is the pattern likely to be found increasingly in more developed Muslim societies. Islamic scholars argue that the Koran does not prohibit women from working, though concede that tradition has extolled them more as wives and mothers than as breadwinners. Their rights and role in society are increasingly going to be one of the challenges Islam must face, as the women of Kabul are finding to their cost.

## Bosnian elections and UN sanctions

From Sir Terence Clark

Sir, I was amazed to hear Sir John Weston, UK Representative to the United Nations, speaking on the BBC World Service on October 2 about the Security Council's lifting of sanctions from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Serb Republic following "free and fair" elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Everyone in official positions here in Bosnia has been careful to avoid calling these elections "free and fair". Indeed, the Chairman-in-Office of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) declared on September 29 that the political conditions were not fulfilled.

Annex 3 of the Dayton peace agreement defines these conditions as in particular a politically neutral environment... the right to vote in secret without fear or intimidation... freedom of expression and of the press... freedom of association (including of political parties) and freedom of movement.

None of these conditions existed to even the minimum acceptable degree either before or during the elections: moreover, there are strong grounds for believing that the election results involved fraud.

After two weeks of muddle and confusion about the results and a healthy measure of mathematical juggling to reconcile them, Ambassador Frowick, Head of the OSCE Mission in Bosnia, which supervised the preparation and conduct of the elections, could only manage to say, on September 29 that "a reasonably democratic electoral process" had taken place.

The Security Council members were clearly in a difficult position. For reasons best known to themselves, they felt that sanctions had to be lifted. Less clear is why they should take this step; for in so doing they have effectively abandoned the leverage which sanctions afforded, whilst simultaneously appearing to reward the parties involved for their recalcitrance, in particular with regard to the issue of the detention of indicted war criminals.

However, Security Council Resolution No 1022 of November 22, 1995, clearly specified that the lifting of sanctions was dependent on "free and fair" elections having taken place, so it would seem that Sir John's use of the term was after all, no mere slip of the tongue, but an elastic interpretation of the OSCE's words.

Yours faithfully,  
TERENCE CLARK  
(Director),  
International Crisis Group  
Bosnia Project,  
29 Kulinj Bana, Sarajevo.  
October 4.

## Funding pensions

From Mr Roger J. Ellis

Sir, There appears to be some confusion as to the funding of pensions in the EU under the EMU (letter, October 2).

Participation in the EMU would reduce Britain's control over money supply and interest rates (surely not a bad thing, bearing in mind our lack of success in this department), with interest rates in Britain falling considerably on joining — a point not often trumpeted.

Taxation is quite different. Taxation would still be under the full control of the individual states and governments. If there were extra pension payments to be found by certain countries these would be funded by extra taxation in those states only, and any inclination by those states to reflate the European economy to assist in this matter could be negated by making the European Central Bank independent of political control.

Thus extra pension payments would in no way be borne by a Britain inside the EMU.

Sincerely,  
ROGER J. ELLIS,  
7 The Willows, Bangor, Co Down.  
October 2.

## Tax and inflation

From Mr A. D. Lewiss

Sir, Mr M. C. Kennedy (letter, October 1), writing from Manchester University School of Economic Studies, appears to believe that national debt is paid off by taxpayers in general, as interest plus repayment of capital to holders of gilts. Would that it were so.

Ever since the 1930s, when inflation was zero or even negative, until very recently, interest paid after tax (at the standard rate) has been negative, being below the rate of inflation and insufficient to prevent the steady erosion of capital. Thus in 1978, with inflation approaching 27 per cent, just before the demise of the last Labour Government, building societies were offering 10 per cent net of tax interest on instant-access, over-the-counter accounts.

By and large, the British electorate votes for Santa Claus, but the largesse they receive from vote-buying politicians has to be paid for by tax on savings known as inflation. The poll tax riots will be nothing compared with what will happen when we are in the EMU and the European Central Bank imposes a strict spend-as-you-earn policy via the non-inflated euro.

Yours etc,  
DAVID LEVAGGI,  
4 Grosvenor Street, Bury, Lancashire.  
October 2.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

### 'Culling' pupils who fail to shine

From Mr Joe Ruston

Sir, Libby Purves's article on the "culling" of school sixth-formers to improve A-level results ("Pupils must come before tables", October 1) is passionately argued but unfair. Our group of tutorial colleges receives many of the so-called culled (we have about 40 here now) and in our experience schools put the interests of the pupil first.

What typically happens is this: the school reports to the parents that their child is likely for (whatever reason) to achieve disappointing A-level results. The parents, mindful of the grades required for entry to the premier league universities, demand action and the school suggests a change of subject or more time on the existing ones. Usually, this means joining the year below, a prospect which most pupils reject. Finally, and only after much careful thought, the idea of moving to a new environment such as ours is explored.

This is not to say that schools never use the threat of expulsion to galvanise the lazy. We do the same and, indeed, find ourselves expelling a few students each year. I would just as passionately defend our right to do so.

Yours etc,  
JOE RUSTON  
(Chairman),  
Mander Portman Woodward Group,  
3 Elvaston Place, SW7.  
October 3.

From Mrs Pipyn Trustram Eve

Sir, I can understand Libby Purves's horror at the thought of "culling" the young; but in certain areas the practice has been occurring for many years.

Since 1983 this trust has been picking up and "recycling" young people who have left school without A levels but want to become chartered surveyors, chartered engineers or architects, all of which require degree entry. About 80 per cent of our intake achieves places on honour degree courses.

Yours faithfully,  
PIPYN TRISTRAM EVE  
(Manager),  
The Chartered Surveyors  
Training Trust,  
9 Bentinck Street, WI.  
October 1.

From the Headmaster of Shiplake College

Sir, Libby Purves tells only half the story. There are many excellent small schools whose particular strength lies in supporting the very pupils she describes.

Small classes, intensive teaching and a flexible and imaginative curriculum allow many less able pupils to thrive in the sixth form and achieve

marvellous results.

Sadly, we have reached a time when market forces operate so strongly in independent fee-paying schools that parents of these children can now find places for them at 11 or 13 in more academic schools which, though struggling to fill their places, then reject them at 16.

Yours faithfully,  
NICK BEVAN,  
Headmaster,  
Shiplake College,  
Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire.  
October 2.

From the Headmaster of Malvern College

Sir, Libby Purves quotes part of a conversation I had on September 24 with a freelance journalist. In the course of a discussion on boarding we talked about why Malvern's A-level and GCSE performances had improved so much this year.

I said that in December 1994 pupils and their parents had been told that there would no longer be an automatic right of progression from the lower-sixth to the upper-sixth.

One result was that five pupils in 1995 and four pupils in 1996 had left the school. "Expulsion" was not a term which was ever used in this context. Some of the nine were simply ill-suited to an A-level course; others were not prepared to do the necessary work.

I stressed that we would always be prepared to keep faith with those who were weak but tried and participated, whatever their results were likely to be. There are plenty of instances of this.

Yours faithfully,  
ROY DE C. CHAPMAN,  
Headmaster,  
Malvern College,  
Worcestershire.  
October 2.

From Mr P. Newman and Miss J. Thornton

Sir, As sixth-formers at Malvern College we were disappointed to find our school misrepresented. The policy of "culling" pupils is not designed to penalise those who have been hard working yet unsuccessful.

Those who are idle and refuse to work in the face of encouragement are all given the opportunity to retake the lower-sixth year and warned that they need to apply themselves more thoroughly.

Yours faithfully,  
PETE NEWMAN,  
JOANNA THORNTON,  
Malvern College,  
Malvern, Worcestershire.  
October 1.

dons on the Middle East are superficial to the extreme.

The Oslo accord between Israel and the Palestinians amounted to a land-for-peace deal. Major steps, though not yet complete, were achieved by Israel in giving up land and power to the Palestinian authority. But the other side of the bargain, peace, was not delivered by the Palestinians. On the contrary, terrorist activities in Israel accelerated, claiming record numbers, for peacetime, of Israeli civilians murdered.

Peace for peace, important to both sides in this protracted dispute, is the sine qua non for any permanent solution.

Yours faithfully,  
R. BLACK,  
33 Daylesford Road,  
Cheshire.  
October 8.

From Mr F. J. Fishburn

Sir, However much one may sympathise with his sentiments, Mr Menzies Campbell appears to overlook the fact that Mr Netanyahu's Government was not democratically elected with a specific mandate to pursue the policy of peace for security.

Yours truly,  
F. J. FISHBURN,  
7 South Square,  
Hampstead Garden Suburb, NW1.  
October 7.

National Grid

From Mr Andrew Young

Sir, I was glad to read that the Electricity Regulator plans to curtail excessive profits in the electricity transmission business (reports, Business, October 5) but was less sure that we, the consumers, should benefit so directly.

I am sure the same conditions of entry apply to all arrivals from any country. It is less obvious that this will be appreciated by those waiting in the slowly winding immigration queues as their fat-cat compatriots breeze through in the Fast Track.

Do we really want to promote among visitors to this country the idea that money secures access?

Yours faithfully,  
IAN STOCKMAN,  
College of Aeronautics,  
Department of Air Transport,  
Cranfield University,  
Bedford MK4 9 OAL.  
October 2.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number —

0171-782 5046.

### Long-term decline in aid spending

From the Director General of Save the Children and others

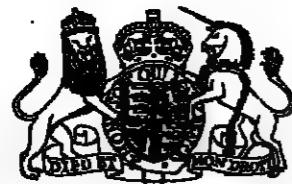
Sir, The long-term decline of Britain's overseas aid budget last year resulted in the first cut in real terms, and there are fears that this year's pre-election Budget could bring further cuts. We consider that these would not be in the national interest economically or politically, at home or abroad. Together with most of Britain's aid and development agencies, we urge the Government to reverse the decline in aid spending.

Above all, aid saves lives. But as well as the moral case for aid, stronger today than it has ever been, the economic and political arguments have gained ground. Global instability — both the cause and effect of conflict, unplanned urbanisation, inadequate infrastructure, public-health threats and environmental degradation — carries a high cost for the British taxpayer.

Properly targeted aid can help to prevent those disasters, many of which are rooted in poverty. By giving people, whole communities and countries a hand-up, aid can be a sound investment rather than a subsidy, to the benefit of both poorer and richer nations. Aid is something that Britain is good at, giving us weight on the international stage.

Given the health advances to which it has contributed, the jobs it has created, its political and economic dividend and the lives it has saved, it would be short-sighted to cut a budget whose reach is so wide and vital.

Yours faithfully,  
MIKE AARONSON,  
Director General, Save the Children,  
ALICK GOLDSMITH,  
Export Group for the Constructional  
Industries,  
JOHN MONKS,  
Trades Union Congress,  
THOMAS McMAHON,  
Catholic Diocese of Brentwood,  
THUMPHREY TAYLOR,  
International and Development Affairs  
Committee, Church of England,  
DAVID WEATHERALL,  
Institute of Molecular Medicine,  
University of Oxford,  
c/o Save the Children Fund,



## COURT CIRCULAR

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
October 8: The Queen arrived at Buckingham Palace this afternoon.

Mrs Robert de Pass has succeeded Lady Dugdale as Lady-in-Waiting to Her Majesty.

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
October 8: The Duke of York, Commandor, this evening attended a dinner given by the Royal Thames Yacht Club at 60 Kensington, London SW1.

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
October 8: The Princess Royal this morning departed from Bratislava International Airport, Ljubljana, Slovenia, for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Her Royal Highness, Colonel-in-Chief, Royal Corps of Signals, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment and Royal Logistic Corps, later arrived at Sarajevo Airport and visited units of the Corps.

During the day The Princess

Royal was briefed on Save the Children's Fund's work in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

This afternoon Her Royal Highness flew to Banja Luka and continued her visits.

**KENSINGTON PALACE**

October 8: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, Colonel-in-Chief, Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps, this afternoon received Colonel Margaret Slattery on assuming the appointment of Colonel Commandant of the Corps, Colonel Jane Arigo, Director Army Nursing Services and Matron-in-Chief (Army) was present.

**THATCHED HOUSE LODGE RICHMOND PARK**

October 8: Princess Alexandra this morning attended the opening by Her Imperial Highness Princess Sayako of the Japanese Gateway and Landscape at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Richmond, Surrey.



Visitors take a close look at some of the apples exhibited at the RHS show yesterday

## Fruits and veg overpower the flowers

By ALAN TOOGOOD  
HORTICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

FRUITS and vegetables are the main ingredients of the Royal Horticultural Society's flower show, which opened in Westminster yesterday.

Large exhibits of fruits from amateur growers are rarely seen at shows today so the collection of 100 cultivars of apples and pears from Gerald Edwards, of Pinner, northwest London, and Douglas Balingrove, of Cirencester, Gloucestershire, is something to be savoured. They range from old cultivars, such as the rather lumpy apple "Calville Blaue D'Hiver", introduced in 1598, to modern cultivars, including the bright red dessert apple "Red Devil".

The RHS Garden, Wisley, Surrey, has staged a very large collection of fruits, mainly apples and pears, including an unusual Japanese pear, "Kumo", which has apple-shaped fruits of a beautiful golden colour.

Among the displays of vegetables, the RHS Garden, Wisley, is showing award winners from the recent trials of fennel (bulb types) and red cabbage, enhanced with colourful squashes and pumpkins, including a very unusual warty pumpkin called "Citrullus di Eysenii". Joe Maiden is showing more than 100 cultivars of potato that he has grown in the Gardening Which? demonstration garden. Golden Acre Park, Leeds, West Yorkshire. The gold-medal collection shows the progress of the potato from "Lumper" (introduced in 1800), grown at the time of the Irish famine and the parent of more modern cultivars, to up-to-date kinds such as "Heather" (1995) with mauve skin. The latter is a good heavy cropping all-purpose potato — which Newchurch Natives put up for award, received an Award of Merit.

Other gold medalists are Burncoose Nurseries, of Redruth, Cornwall (trees, shrubs and ornamental plants); Hartsdale Nursery Garden, of Alston, Cumbria; autumn gentians, ferns and rock garden plants; Linchuk Nursey, of Bishop Green, Surrey (conifers); Mathewman's Nursery, of Thorpe Audlin, North Yorkshire (sweet peas); and A & Wright of Wincle, Cheshire (chrysanthemums and dahlias).

The Joint Dahlia Committee (of RHS and National Dahlia Society) have put up a display of dahlias that are being grown in the current Wisley trials, including a new range of miniatures, the Lilliput Series, with tiny flowers and leaves. These are ideal for bedding in small gardens and for containers.

The Southern Branch of the National Vegetable Society has staged a colourful display of vegetables, but the mangold wortzel is rather out of context as it is an agricultural crop rather than for the dinner table.

Among the ornamental autumn displays, part of the National Collection of Cotoneaster has been staged by Jeanette Fryer, of Clanfield, Hampshire. There are many good and unusual species and cultivars, such as *C. humulifolia* with black berries, the shiny red *C. casuarinae*, and *C. horizontalis* "Graciosa" which has particularly good autumn leaf colour. RHS Floral 8 Committee has also staged a large collection of clematis, some again from Jeanette Fryer including several new ones such as *C. viticella* "Orangeade" with unusual orange berries, a gold medal collection of nerines from Northern Nerine, of Merton, Surrey, and Wight. It is creating a brilliant splash of colour. They are showing many of their hybrids, such as *Spiraea* Flame Seedlings with brilliant orange flowers, *Geum* Seedlings in smoky pink shades, and *Springbank* Pink Seedlings in pastel pink shades. A smoke-purple hybrid of unknown origin, *Nerine sarniensis* "Quest", which Newchurch Natives put up for award, has won the George Moore challenge cup for a collection of 12 dishes of vegetables; and R G Tudor, of Blackwood, Gwent, has won the Riddell trophy for a collection of six kinds of vegetables.

In the RHS ornamental plants' competition, March Christians, of Launde, of Abingdon, Oxfordshire, has won the class for trees and shrubs with autumnal fruits and pomes, best won by the Eastgate Horticultural Society, of Easgate, Pinner, northwest London. In the vegetable division, Jim Thompson, of Mid Glamorgan, has won the George Moore challenge cup for a collection of 12 dishes of vegetables; and R G Tudor, of Blackwood, Gwent, has won the Riddell trophy for a collection of six kinds of vegetables.

In the British National Carnation Society's competition, Jim Linnell, of Tewkesbury, North Gloucestershire, has won the Daily Mail cup for most points in the six-bloom classes for perpetual-flowering carnations.

The show, in the Old and New Horticultural Halls, Victoria Square and Greycoat Street, Westminster, is open today from 10am to 5pm.

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Somerset, have included a new nerine in their display, called "Zee Giant". It has exceptionally large flowers, about the size of amaryllis, and they are bright icing sugar pink. It is not yet available.

Several competitions are being held with this show. In the RHS autumn fruit and vegetable competition, the Duke of Marlborough of Blenheim Palace, Oxfordshire, has won the class for blackberries with Medlarine. Considered the Duke of Beaufort, of Chatsworth House Trust, Derbyshire, has won the class for white grapes with "Muscat of Alexandria".

Alan Buller, of Chesham, Surrey, has won the class for a collection of hardy fruits, and J Uren, of Long Eaton, Nottinghamshire, has won the class for a collection of nine dishes of apples and pears. The ultimate challenge competition, held over a week, will be won by the Eastgate Horticultural Society, of Easgate, Pinner, northwest London. In the vegetable division, Jim Thompson, of Mid Glamorgan, has won the George Moore challenge cup for a collection of 12 dishes of vegetables; and R G Tudor, of Blackwood, Gwent, has won the Riddell trophy for a collection of six kinds of vegetables.

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## Forthcoming marriages

Mr D.J. Barbour

and Miss L.S.K. Stanley  
The engagement is announced between David, eldest son of Mr Clive Barbour, of Crofton, Lancashire, and Mrs Valerie Barbour, of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, and Laure, younger daughter of the Hon Richard and Mrs Stanley, of Fulham, London.

Mr G.M. Berkery

and Miss S.E. Wakefield  
The engagement is announced between Gavin, son of Mr and Mrs Martin Berkery, of Rotherfield, East Sussex, and Sallie, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Kenneth Wakefield, of Solihull, Warwickshire.

Mr D.J. Chalstrey

and Miss N.J. Strong  
The engagement is announced between David James, son of Mr and Mrs Frank Chalstrey, of Haslemere, Surrey, and Nicola, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs John Strong, of Weybridge, Surrey.

Mr J.G. Evans

and Miss S. Kovancikova  
The engagement is announced between Gilbert, elder son of Mr and Mrs David Evans, of Sevenoaks, Kent, and Sebnem, daughter of Mr and Mrs Atilla Kovancikova, of Istanbul.

Mr W.S.B. Hawkes

and Miss C.U. Foster-Black  
The engagement is announced between William, son of Colonel and Mrs A.J. Hawkes, of Laxfield, Suffolk, and Christine (Toots), daughter of Mr and Mrs T.D. Ellin, of Alfrick, Worcestershire.

Mr J.C. Nicol

and Miss J.A. Phillips  
The engagement is announced between Julian, youngest son of Mr John and Dr Verna Nicol, of Hardbridge, Worcestershire, and Julie, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs James Phillips, of Solihull, West Midlands.

Mr C.S. Rix

and Miss J.M. Horner  
The engagement is announced between Charles, younger son of Sir John and Lady Rix, of Winchester, Hampshire, and Jane, twin daughter of Dr and Mrs Adam Horner, of Beaumaris, Anglesey.

Mr G.J. Windsor

and Miss J.A. Parkhouse  
The engagement is announced between Julian, third son of Mr and Mrs Windsor, of Wantage, Oxfordshire, and Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Parkhouse, of Bristol.

Mr G.J. Windsor

and Miss A. Collins  
The marriage took place last week between Major John Surtees and Mrs Vera Collins. A service of blessing was held afterwards at St Michael's, Cornhill.

Mr J.S. Williams

The marriage took place on Tuesday, October 8, 1996, in Doncaster, between Mr Ronald Williams, of The Garden House, Brodsworth, and Sehora Graciela Ariola Perez Romero, of 1900 Avenue Universidad, Mexico City, and of The Estate House, Brodsworth, Doncaster.

## University news

Mr Michael Yuille, to be Director of Finance, Glasgow University.

## Dinners

**Glovers' Company**

The Lord Chancellor and Lady Mackay of Clashern were the principal guests at the annual dinner of the Glovers' Company held last night at the Mansion House.

**Constructors' Company**

Mr P. Everett, Master of the Constructors' Company, presided at the installation court dinner held last night at Carpenters' Hall in aid of the Treloar Trust.

**London Metal Exchange**

The Chairman, Mr R.K. Bagri, and the Board of Directors of the London Metal Exchange Limited, were the hosts at their annual dinner at Grosvenor House last night. The guest speaker was Mr Jean-Pierre Rodier, President, Pechiney Bauxite. Also present were some 1,500 members and guests of the Exchange.

## Marriages

Mr C.R. Erith

and Miss L.S.K. Stanley  
The marriage took place on Saturday, October 5, 1996, at the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Tunstead, Norfolk, of Mr Charles Erith, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Robert Erith, to Miss Laura Buxton, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Andrew Buxton. Mr William Beck was best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride, and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Mr W. Holt

and Miss L.J. Thorburn  
The marriage took place on October 5, at Dunclerk Cathedral, Perthshire, of Mr William Holt to Miss Lucy Thorburn.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Harriet Ashton, Emily Cuthbert, Peter Hemmings, Chloe Smith and Max Canisale. Mr Jerry Wharton was best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon is being spent abroad.

Mr G.A. Nisbet

and Miss F.D. McPhee  
The marriage took place on Saturday, September 7, 1996, in a private ceremony, on the island of Vautele, Fiji, between Graham Alexander Nisbet and Fiona Deans McPhee.

Mr T.P.G. Norman

and Miss L.E. Mansour  
The marriage took place on Saturday, October 5, at St Michael's, Chester Square, of Mr Timothy Norman, younger son of Mr and Mrs Paul Norman, of Southgate, Suffolk, and Christine (Toots), daughter of Mr and Mrs Alfie Mansour, of Fulham, London, and Robertbridge, East Sussex.

Mr J.N. Phillips

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Mr C.S. Rix

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A reception was held at 30 Pavilion Road and the honeymoon is being spent in Mexico.

Major J. Surtees

and Mrs V. Collins  
The marriage took place last week between Major John Surtees and Mrs Vera Collins. A service of blessing was held afterwards at St Michael's, Cornhill.

Mr G.J. Windsor

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International production demands have brought blight

## Losing focus on the colossus of Rhodes

**W**hat is killing Rhodes? First of all I thought it was the co-production blight. American money in a British television series almost always takes out the flavour. The allusive is brushed aside, the obvious is stressed, wellingtons have to be explained as a kind of boot, Waterloo as a railway station in London. The danger is that the theme-park-Britain approach can quickly take over.

That's what happened in *The Buccaneers*, the BBC's bosomy flop based on the unfinished novel by Edith Wharton and made in alliance with Boston's WGBH.

Something has to explain such an extensive disaster. On second thoughts, I still blame co-production, but for different reasons. There are not one but three foreign partners involved; the South African as well as the Canadian and American public broadcasters contributed toward the £10 million it cost Zenith to make the monster series for the BBC. Once that many worthies are involved, each with its own perspective to be accommodated, a sharp focus disappears. Frequent hand-sweeps towards the map of Africa — "Germans here, Portuguese here" and (gesturing from bottom to top) "Cape to Cairo" — help nobody in Pretoria or Peoria.

The main problem, however, can be summed up in two words: epic drama. Trying to make history into a personal story is risky unless it's Henry V or Gandhi. The dialogues swiftly deteriorate to the "Mr Hitler, I would like you to meet Mr Mussolini" level. The present series is not helped by the fact that Rhodes seems to have been a creep, with a hard-to-dramatise wish not to get married. Instead of all those sub-titled scenes in Ndebele, we would have been better served if they merely flashed "latent homosexual" on the screen.

A slow start is a further risk for a blockbuster series. *People's Century*, another of the BBC's mega-mega co-productions with WGBH, had to upload a lot of information before it could get going. Its focus — telling the events of the century through the eyes of individuals who lived through them — meant starting with the most unphotogenic people in the world: the extremely aged. What struck the viewer was not that they had stormed the Winter Palace, but that they were still alive.

That history series, now in its second year, has got better. I found *Master Race* a more moving account of the Holocaust than *Schindler's List* but not because of the survivors, heart-rending as it was, rather because of the fresh archive film unearthed



BRENDA MADDOX

**T**he BBC's own internal revolution gathers speed.

The splitting of all its functions into two halves, one called Broadcast, the other Production, began this month. "Compared to this," said one scarred veteran, "Producer Choice was just a pimple."

The operation, disclosed by John Birt, the Director-General on June 6, is actually three revolutions in one. It separates the commissioning of programmes — deciding what to make and when to show them — from the making of them. At the same time, it merges radio with television by sliding the responsibility for radio programmes into these separate camps.

Also next April — unless stopped by the Foreign Office-led investigating committee — the English-language programmes of the World Service will also pass into the control of these two powerful arms.

The World Service merger, at least, is not a *fait accompli*. But I shudder at the BBC's ominous words about "bi-media" working at the heart of our efforts.

Matthew Barnister, the new head of BBC radio, insists that radio will not be treated as television without pictures. But can you imagine two such completely separate approaches as *People's Century* and *20/20: A View of the Century*, its prizewinning radio counterpart being tolerated in the bi-media future? I can't. I fear that the co-production blight will become an internal disease.

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Royal Mail is an Equal Opportunities Employer. Suitable qualified applicants with disabilities will be shortlisted.

**R**oyal Mail

# Now it's Trevor the Entertainer

Trevor McDonald, ITN's genial five-nights-a-week presenter, is brushing up his ad-libs ready to host the National Television Awards. Carol Midgley reports

**T**onight viewers of ITV will switch on their television sets to see the familiar features of Trevor McDonald smiling back at them. Nothing unusual there. For almost a decade the genial Trevor has been a linchpin of *News at Ten*, fronting it six times a week for the past three years.

Tonight, however, is different. Tonight we meet not Trevor the Newscaster but Trevor the Entertainer, a journalist turned celebrity whose charm has made him a housewives' favourite that he has been chosen in preference to Jonathan Rosses and Chris Barnes of the showbusiness world to host what immodestly describes itself as the number one event in British television: the National Television Awards.

At the age of 56, greying and with no chat show or comedy credentials behind him, McDonald does not exactly fit the usual profile of host for such a razzmatazz ITV event. Nor is his broadcasting style particularly robust or controversial: only last month he was reprimanded by the Independent Television Commission for being "too friendly" in his interview with John Major, a technique the Labour Party less generously described as "fawning".

Producers know that live awards ceremonies can live or die by the ability of an experienced anchorman to sashay with wit through tricky moments. So why, out of all the showbusiness personalities on offer, choose a relative novice to front an event of this magnitude at such an intimidating venue as the Albert Hall? The reason, according to unofficial sources, is that ITV is desperate to keep him.

It is no secret that BSkyB is more than keen to sign him up and, although denied officially, BBC insiders insist there is more than a passing interest in poaching ITN's golden boy. ITN is rumoured to have hit back by swiftly raising McDonald's salary to £200,000. He has been assured that his portfolio will be widened beyond the world of mere newscasting into more adventurous territory. Last month, true to its word, ITV picked him to host its 1997 programme presentation for advertisers at the London Palladium, a key corporate event. He is clearly a hot property —

illustrated by the fact that he was accompanied by not one but two press officers while being interviewed by *The Times*. Ask him if it is true that he is being pursued by rival channels, however, and McDonald demonstrates that the years of talking to politicians have not been wasted. He knows exactly how not to answer a question. "Broadcasting is a very small world. From time to time we all get contacted by other companies," said Trevor the Diplomat. "I am happy doing my job at ITN and for the time being I am happy to stay here."

Does that mean he is not ruling

labyrinthine arguments of the single currency. You are never going to get them jumping up and down in their living rooms shouting. "Great! it's the single currency," but these are still issues which have to be dealt with."

Since being asked to host the event, McDonald has been practising in his mind how he will present it. "I don't think I make a very good comedian, so I am not going to try to be Bruce Forsyth or Terry Wogan. I have been thinking about it over the past few months and I think I know how I'm going to do it. After doing *News at Ten* you do begin to lose the nervousness, but this is different, this is entertainment rather than information — it's about trying to convey a certain kind of excitement. It is rather frightening."

The climate is certainly favourable for McDonald's career advancement — newsreaders make the news almost as often as they present it. Anna Ford was recently publicly criticised for being too aggressive while interviewing Kenneth Clarke on Radio 4's *Today* programme. Does McDonald agree that interviewers are too pushy?

"That is an old argument," he says, following the platinum rule of never snitching on your mates. "It has been said about journalists for years. I remember when Robin Day asked Harold Macmillan a domestic question and Macmillan just looked at him and said, 'Wrong time, wrong place'. There will always be jousts between journalists and politicians."

He concedes that doing the National Television Awards is a way of satisfying a spot of wanderlust. "From time to time it is rather nice to do other things. This one is nice because it is about the industry. It is lovely to be asked."

You do get tired in the job. For instance, today will be a 13-hour day and you can't do too many of those. It's often not until the weekend that you realise how tired you are. I am not bored with it, though. I still think there is a skill in presenting the news in an interesting way, but if I knew what I would bottle it and sell it. I think the trick is that you have to make sure that what you do and say is accessible to people. You have to make it interesting, keep people thinking this is something they need to know."

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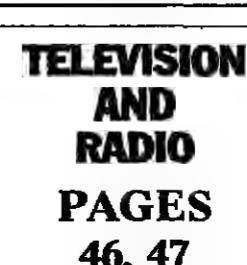
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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 9 1996

## British companies pour millions into electing Dole

BY ALANJAIR MURRAY

BRITISH companies are spending millions of dollars helping Bob Dole to reach the White House and the Republican Party to preserve its majority in Congress.

Political spending associated with the US subsidiaries of leading British companies has totalled about \$3.35 million during the current election round — which includes the Presidential race and Congressional elections.

Around 60 per cent of this money, \$2.1 million, has been directed towards the Republican Party, while the Democrats have received

\$560,000 from British-owned companies. The balance reflects administrative costs and donations to other political organisations.

Major UK companies are now spending more on supporting American political parties than they are on UK political donations. Political donations made by FTSE 100 companies declined to just £760,000 last year, compared with a high of £1.14 million in 1991.

A number of companies that have recently ended donations to the Conservative Party are big spenders. These include Glaxo Wellcome, which is the second-largest British contributor in the US, with its

### TOP 5 UK DONORS

| BAT Industries   | \$730,000 |
|------------------|-----------|
| Glaxo Wellcome   | \$680,000 |
| Price Waterhouse | \$390,000 |
| BP               | \$315,000 |
| Zeneca           | \$230,000 |

related political spending totalling \$680,000 in this election cycle.

The largest British donor in the United States is BAT Industries, which is associated with \$730,000 of political expenditure made by Brown and Williamson, its tobacco

subsidiary, and Farmers, its California-based insurance business.

The vast majority of this money has flowed from Brown and Williamson to the Republican Party, reflecting the company's battle with the Clinton administration over tough anti-smoking regulations introduced in the summer.

A total of 25 British companies have contributed to US political parties in the past two years, according to documents filed with the Federal Election Commission in Washington. Eight of these have spent more than \$100,000.

The other major British contributors have subsidiaries concentrated in sectors that are highly regulated or have been at the centre of legislative battles. These include Zeneca and SmithKline Beecham, Shell and BP, and Price Waterhouse.

The most popular candidate with British companies is Jesse Helms, senator for North Carolina, and chairman of the powerful Senate foreign relations committee.

Other candidates who attracted financial support from British companies include Senator Alfonse D'Amato, who has led the Whitewater inquiry, and Thomas DeLay, chief whip in the House of Representatives, a fierce critic of the

US Environmental Protection Agency. Under US election law, companies are not allowed to contribute directly to candidates but can contribute through political action committees (PACs), or through "soft money" donations.

Companies draw their funds from an optional levy on employees' salaries — similar to the trade union levy system in this country. Soft money payments can come direct from company funds and include donations and services provided to the party executive rather than directly to the candidate.

\$2bn campaign. Page 29

## Clarke blocks £613m payout by Reuters

BY ROBERT MILLER AND CARL MORTISHED

REUTERS, the news agency and financial information group, was forced to suspend plans to give £613 million back to its shareholders today, after the Treasury closed a legal loophole with immediate effect yesterday.

Kenneth Clarke took the City by surprise when he announced that, in view of the growing loss of tax through schemes involving companies buying their own shares or paying special dividends, a provision would be included in the next Finance Bill. The move effectively blocks a number of planned cash payouts. Reuters was due to seek approval from shareholders at an extraordinary general meeting today for the creation of a new class of special dividend share. Now the media group will ask shareholders at today's egm to

adjourn consideration of the special share issue. It said the cash payout would be reconsidered when the company's advisers had examined the legislation, which is not expected until next year.

Reuter's novel share scheme, announced last month, is believed to have prompted the Chancellor's decision. The special dividend shares would have allowed the company to hand back net dividends worth 75p per share over three years, thus avoiding payment of extra Advance Corporation Tax.

Companies that earn most of their profits outside of the UK, like Reuters, face the problem of paying extra tax under the ACT imputation system as they do not pay enough mainstream corporation tax to offset against ACT payments on dividends.

## British Energy to shed 1,300 jobs

BY PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRITISH Energy, the privatised nuclear-power generator, is expected to announce today large-scale job losses that could see cuts of up to 25 per cent of the company's workforce.

The company is set to make cuts of between 1,300 and 1,500 jobs, claiming it must reduce costs in a highly competitive market for electricity generation. Senior managers told union leaders privately of the move last week.

It will embarrass ministers at the Conservative party conference in Bournemouth on the day Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, praises Britain's industrial performance under the Tories.

The cuts are expected to be concentrated mainly at the headquarters at Barnwood, Gloucestershire, of Nuclear Electric, which with Scottish Nuclear is one of BE's two wholly owned subsidiaries. Union leaders believe up to 600 jobs at Barnwood could be lost.

In addition, the unions

understand that the company is to announce the closure of two training centres — Agecroft in Lancashire, and Cliffs Quay in Ipswich. No cuts are expected at Scottish Nuclear.

Tony Cooper, general secretary of the 32,000-strong Engineers' and Managers' Association, said: "This is appalling news for those who have to be sacked so that shareholders can enjoy healthy dividends in the short term."

"The industry was sold at a knockdown price after output was artificially boosted to make the profitable side of the nuclear industry look good on the stock market. We warned that the price for this unjustified and unnecessary sell-off would have to be paid by the very staff who made the sale," he said.

John Battle, Shadow Energy and Industry Minister, said: "Assurances given during the privatisation process that BE would not need to make job cuts on this scale are in tatters."

Accountants gave a mixed, but generally unfavourable, response to the Chancellor's announcement. Ernst & Young said the tougher tax rules "go too far", while Deloitte & Touche said that "many innocent non-taxpayers will also be affected".

Alistair Darling, Labour's Shadow Secretary to the Treasury, said: "The failure to close this loophole has cost the taxpayers dear. The privatised utilities have been one of the worst offenders."

Reuters shares slipped 22p, to 755p, on news that the payout was under threat.

Accountants gave a mixed, but generally unfavourable, response to the Chancellor's announcement. Ernst & Young said the tougher tax rules "go too far", while Deloitte & Touche said that "many innocent non-taxpayers will also be affected".

Alistair Darling, Labour's Shadow Secretary to the Treasury, said: "The failure to close this loophole has cost the taxpayers dear. The privatised utilities have been one of the worst offenders."

THE player salary bill at Manchester United is to rise by £5 million this year, an increase of more than 60 per cent according to analysts (Jason Nisbet writes).

The salary rise was revealed as United announced pre-tax profits down £4.7 million at £16.7 million for the year to July 31. After transfer fees the profits actually rose

£418,000, despite the redevelopment of the Old Trafford stadium cutting capacity.

Earnings per share were 18.4p, down 5p, and a final dividend of 3.6p payable on December 2 makes 5.2p in total, up 16 per cent. The City expects profits to rise to over £23 million this year.

Pennington. page 27

Pennington. page 27

## Eurotunnel back live

BY GEORGE SIVELL

EUROTUNNEL shares returned from suspension just 8p lower, at 105p, when trading resumed yesterday morning after the announcement of the terms of the rescue plan. The shares traded between 105p and 124p, a fair way from the all-time high of 151.64.

Analysts said that under the terms of the restructuring the worst-case scenario was that present Eurotunnel shareholders would hold 40 per cent of the equity by 2003.

Monday's £4.7 billion restructuring plan has yet to be approved by shareholders and the syndicate of 225 banks supporting Eurotunnel. Adacte, a French shareholder group, said it amounted to a "declaration of war" by the banks on shareholders. However, Patrick Ponsonnet, Eurotunnel co-chairman, said: "Thanks to the financial restructuring, the possibility of a strong increase in the share price in the long-term can now be envisaged."

JAMES MIRRLEES, the Cambridge University professor of political economy, has won the Nobel prize in economics for his work on the power of taxation to motivate.

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said it was awarding Professor Mirrlees and William Vickrey, a Canadian economist, the £750,000 prize "for their fundamental contributions to the economic theory of incentives under asymmetric information".

Professor Mirrlees, 60, said: "My subject has always been economics and human welfare. It is a delight to have it recognised."

His concern for the optimum tax level that maintains a person's incentive to work is typically a Tory issue, but he believes tax rates in Britain "could reasonably be higher, particularly for middle-income earners".

Winner hailed. Page 26

## Nobel for tax theorist

BY OLIVER AUGUST

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# Nobel winner hailed by fellow economists

By OLIVER AUGUST

ECONOMISTS last night hailed Professor James Mirrlees, this year's Nobel prize winner, as one of the country's most distinguished academics who is nevertheless almost unknown to the wider public.

"He is a leading economic theorist on a wide range of issues," said Martin Weale, director of the National Institute for Economic and Social Research and one of the

Treasury's panel of independent advisers. "He avoided macro-forecasting, so he's not as well known as some economists."

Mr Weale, who once had offices next to Professor Mirrlees at Cambridge, described him as a "slightly austere Scot but an extraordinarily nice person".

An economist at the London Business School, who had also worked with him, said: "He probably has the highest status among graduate stu-

dents and the profession of anybody I've ever met."

Economists singled out for praise the work that he co-wrote in 1974 called Project Appraisal and Planning. "It became almost the bible for people looking to invest in developing countries," said Mr Weale.

Prof Mirrlees, 60, was rather more shy about his success. He said: "It's really exciting solving a problem, a bit embarrassing to get a prize."

In his research Professor Mirrlees

modelled incentive structures in tax systems, insurance markets, auctions and credit allocation. The academy said: "For example, a bank does not have the complete information about lenders' future income. The owners of a firm may not have the same detailed information about costs and competitive conditions as the managing director."

He solved this problem with a flash of academic inspiration almost 30 years ago when he cracked a

complex formula by William Vickrey, the Canadian economist who is the co-winner of the prize.

Prof Mirrlees spent 27 years at Oxford University and likes reading detective stories. He is a grandee in Britain's economics establishment and was president of the Royal Economic Society from 1989 to 1992.

A widower with two daughters, he was educated at Edinburgh University and Trinity College Cambridge, where he read mathematics.

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### Perpetual blesses Refuge merger

THE proposed merger of Refuge Assurance and United Friendly looks set to succeed after Perpetual, a leading Refuge shareholder and until yesterday an outspoken critic of the deal, gave its consent. Neil Woodford, Perpetual's senior investment manager, said he had reached the decision after considering the details of a sweetener offered by Refuge to quell a shareholder revolt. The sweetener addressed this concern by guaranteeing current shareholders a share in any surplus assets in part of Refuge's life fund if they were uncovered in the future.

Perpetual has a 7 per cent stake in Refuge. Other major shareholders, Britannia, with 11 per cent, and Prudential with 6 per cent, have already accepted the improved offer. Refuge shareholders will vote on the offer at an extraordinary meeting next Wednesday.

### Greenbank edges up

DIFFICULT markets in Britain and northern Europe held Walker Greenbank, the wall coverings and fabrics group, to a 3 per cent rise in pre-tax profits in the six months to July 31. At £4.2 million they compared with £4.2 million a year ago. Earnings per share were down 4 per cent to 2.42p, diluted by a 3 per cent higher tax rate and a 2 per cent increase in the issued share capital, but the interim dividend is maintained at 1.3p, payable on December 10.

### William Sinclair to grow

WILLIAM Sinclair Holdings, the garden products and pet stores group, is poised to make two acquisitions worth up to £15 million. Pre-tax profits rose 11 per cent to £5.23 million for the year to June 30. Tom Sinclair, chairman, said that with a cash pile of £7.5 million and cash flow of £555,000 it could call on £15 million. Earnings rose from 14.7p to 20.3p. A final dividend of 8p (7.6p) due on November 13 makes a total 8p (7.6p). The shares rose 1.2p to 17.4p.

### National Mutual soars

NATIONAL MUTUAL became Australia's first publicly listed life insurer yesterday in an impressive \$3 billion (£1.52 billion) debut on the Australian stock exchange. The group's shares, which had been sold to retail investors at A\$1.50, ended the day at A\$1.73 in fierce trading as those who had passed out for stock. The listing paves the way for the planned stock market float next year of Colonial Mutual Life.

### Intermediate ahead

INTERMEDIATE Capital Group, the mezzanine finance provider, achieved a 5 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £11.1 million in the six months to July 31. Core income was up 11 per cent to £5.6 million. The company said the buyout market remained active. New lending in the second half has been very strong, producing significantly higher fee income. ICG is lifting the interim dividend 12 per cent to 4.8p a share, payable from earnings that rose to 15.3p a share (14.9p).

### Irish exports boom

THE Irish Republic's trade surplus in May jumped to £1.663 million from £1.408 million in April, according to Central Statistics Office figures released yesterday. Preliminary figures for June suggest that exports were running at £1.264 billion, with imports at £1.173 billion, giving one of the biggest trade surpluses — £1910 million — in recent years, the CSO said. The May export figure of £1.224 billion was 5 per cent higher than in the same period last year.

### Brit buys Lloyd's agency

BENFIELD & REA Investment Trust (Brit), the Lloyd's investment vehicle chaired by Matthew Harding, vice-chairman of Chelsea FC, has teamed up with Electra Fleming to buy Stewart Syndicates, a Lloyd's managing agency, for an undisclosed amount in shares and cash. Brit and Electra Fleming are working in partnership with Stewart Syndicates. □ The first writs against names owing £500 million to Lloyd's are due to be issued at the High Court today.

## TOURIST RATES

|              | Mark<br>Buy | Bank<br>Sale | Mark<br>Buy    | Bank<br>Sale |
|--------------|-------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| Australia \$ | 2.08        | 1.97         | Malta          | 0.608        |
| Austria Sch  | 17.80       | 16.30        | Netherlands G  | 2.871        |
| Belgium Fr   | 52.15       | 47.85        | New Zealand \$ | 2.41         |
| Canada \$    | 2.222       | 2.062        | Norway Kr      | 10.70        |
| Croatia C    | 0.755       | 0.725        | Portugal Esc   | 282.50       |
| Denmark Kr   | 8.72        | 8.62         | Spain Pt       | 7.57         |
| Finland Mil  | 1.70        | 1.65         | Sweden Kr      | 10.97        |
| Germany Dm   | 8.54        | 7.05         | Spain Pt       | 194.00       |
| Greece Dr    | 3.91        | 3.66         | Sweden Kr      | 10.97        |
| Hong Kong \$ | 12.35       | 11.72        | Switzerland Fr | 1.02         |
| Iceland      | 115         | 95           | Turkey Lira    | 1400.00      |
| Ireland £    | 1.03        | 0.98         | USA \$         | 1.881        |
| Israel Shek  | 5.37        | 4.72         |                | 1.501        |
| Italy Lira   | 2479        | 2224         |                |              |
| Japan Yen    | 167.00      | 171.80       |                |              |

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

## Contract for M40 awarded

Britain's biggest "privatised" road contract, a £100 million widening and maintenance franchise for the London to Birmingham M40, was awarded yesterday by the Highways Agency.

The 30-year Private Finance Initiative contract was won by the UK Highways M40 consortium, which has Hyder Welsh as a 40 per cent shareholder. Other backers are Tarmac, John Laing and two French companies.

### Profits down

Lyons Irish Holdings, the tea group based in the Irish Republic in which Unilever has a 75 per cent interest, suffered a fall in pre-tax profits for the year to August 17 to £18.5 million from £18.9 million. Earnings per share fell to 12.45p from 12.64p. A final dividend of 12.5p, payable on December 13, lifts the total to 12.85p from 12.35p.

### Law inquiry

The role played by Price Waterhouse and Ernst & Young, the accountants, in drafting Jersey's limited liability partnerships law is to be investigated by a committee of inquiry. Although the law was approved by the States of Jersey two weeks ago, the use of London QC's in its drafting, alleged to have cost the accountancy firms in excess of £1 million, has raised concerns.

### Bowing out

Sir Gerald Whent, 69, is to retire as chief executive of Vodafone in December after 13 years at the helm. He is to be replaced by Chris Gent, 48, an executive director of Vodafone Group and managing director of Vodafone Ltd, its UK arm.

### Ban lifted

British Gas has lifted the ban on people over 70 owning its Goldfish credit card. The card's launch a month ago provoked a row with the 100,000-member Association of Retired Persons Over 50, which claimed that it showed "unjustified bias against older people".

### Ashley move

Laura Ashley, the clothing and furnishings retailer, is to take direct control of its distribution from Federal Express at a cost of about £1 million. There will be no redundancies.



David Martell, left, Trafficmaster's chief executive, and Bill McIntosh, finance director, are in talks with four car manufacturers interested in the company's traffic jam warning system. In the six months to June 30, Trafficmaster suffered pre-tax losses of £1.42 million (£1.21 million). There is no interim dividend

## Labour 'would be forced to raise interest rates'

By OLIVER AUGUST

AN INCOMING Labour government would be forced to raise interest rates straight away to establish credibility in the fight against inflation, an independent survey says.

The poll conducted by Reuters, which includes forecasts from 32 banks, think-tanks, and universities, predicts Labour's reaction would be swift but less draconian than the last Tory rate rises.

The average base rate forecast is for a rise to 6.6 per cent in September 1998 from the current 5.75 per cent. But a rise above 7 per cent under a Labour Chancellor has not been ruled out.

Alex Garrad, of UBS, said: "They'll inherit a consumer boom that has been stoked up by the Chancellor. We think they will have to raise rates higher and more aggressively than they would otherwise have done because of the timing of the election in the economic cycle."

Many economists believe a rate rise is inevitable whatever the election outcome after months of tension between the Treasury and the Bank of England over the appropriate level of borrowing costs.

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, is said to have held down base rates for political reasons to help a consumer recovery that will have to be

constrained by next year. But economists are divided over the extent to which economic recovery has filtered through to consumer spending, which means a higher inflation risk.

John Young, of Sanwa Bank, said: "Optimists on inflation argue that falling producer price inflation still has to feed through to the retail level. But I think we are seeing a return of the 'feel-

good factor'." Mr Young added: "Labour is trying to sell itself as the party of financial stability. If they did face an environment of rising inflation and didn't do something about it in the first part of their parliamentary term, their credibility in the markets would diminish pretty quickly."

The survey was conducted against the backdrop of a

Labour lead in the opinion polls. However, a rise in rates is still thought likely even under a Conservative government because of strengthening consumer spending.

Economists see few real differences on macro-economic policy between Labour and the Conservatives, predicting a broad continuation of present policies regardless of which party is in power.

## Car insurance underclass being frozen out, says AA

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

AN UNDERCLASS of uninsurable drivers is emerging in Britain because insurance companies are actively cherry-picking low-risk motorists, the AA claimed yesterday.

The practice, which runs contrary to the concept of insurance as providing a pooled risk, affects young and inexperienced drivers, and those in professions deemed to be "high risk".

AA Insurance Services says the market is polarising and the Government may have to intervene to force insurance companies to provide cover for

some drivers. Rebecca Hadley, of AA Insurance Services, said that while comprehensive rates generally had risen 6 per cent since July and for some "average" drivers had not changed, insurers were refusing to quote or quoting extremely high premiums to discourage some high-risk motorists.

She said: "We are concerned that we may see a situation develop where an underclass of uninsured and uninsurable drivers decide they cannot afford cover."

"Direct insurers are torn

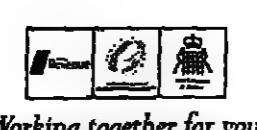
between trying to increase their customer base and not wanting to take on high-risk motorists.

"We do not want the situation to become as bad as California, where the Government had to intervene to prevent whole districts being red-lined by insurance companies," she said.

The AA says that household rates have also gone up: buildings insurance rose by 1.2 per cent over the past quarter.

Pennington, page 27

"The Chairman's  
Not fit to run  
the company."  
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SWINSON

Clarke acts, and none too soon  AA driven to distraction  A club at the top of its league

ABOUT time too. The only fair complaint against the Chancellor's attack on the gross dividend scandal is that it has taken him at least a year too long to close a loophole so large that it must be visible from outer space.

The Inland Revenue, so deaf at plucking numbers from the air, reckons yesterday's change will eventually save £400 million a year. Yet share buybacks during 1996 alone appear to have attracted about £750 million in tax subsidies. Over two years, buybacks and special dividends paid in takeovers have probably extracted £1.75 billion from taxpayers for big pensions funds.

The glaring abuse of tax breaks evident in several electricity takeovers and Lloyds Bank's bid for TSB was taken a stage further in Granada's offer for Forte, which had an alternative for those who could not exploit the loophole. The Treasury seems to have been stirred at last from torpor by the ingenious high-dividend share scheme devised by SBC for Reuters. This converted state subsidies from a one-off injection into a regular annual transfusion, siphoned from voters.

Such rules exploit tax rules on distributions, which cover anything going from a company to its shareholders except for demergers or repayments of nominal capital. Advance

corporation tax covers the basic dividend tax due from shareholders. High-rate taxpayers pay more. But exempt holders such as pension funds, charities and people below the income tax threshold can claim the imputed dividend tax back at 20p for every 80p of net dividend.

If a distribution can be concentrated in their hands, then taxpayers have to subsidise the payout. So share buybacks were targeted at big pension funds (smaller charities and low-income investors not being worth bothering about). Funds were eager to co-operate since they earned a premium paid by the Exchequer. Indeed, fund managers desperate for short-term gains blackmailed many a company to pay up.

Tax-driven schemes distort behaviour and corrupt standards. Takeovers featuring special dividends were designed to give some shareholders more than others. They should have been outlawed by the City Takeover Panel if it was fulfilling a function worth preserving.

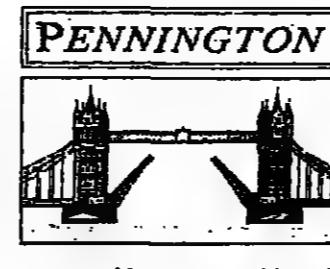
Rightly, the Revenue has not attempted to interfere with spe-

cial dividends paid to all shareholders. If companies think that is the best use of their money, there is nothing to stop them continuing to give it back. Even share buybacks remain feasible but, without subsidies, fewer will be justified in the interests of all shareholders.

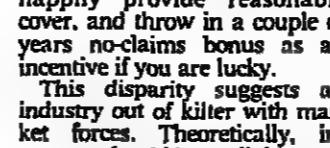
Even members of pension funds, short-term beneficiaries of the gross dividend loophole, should not mourn its passing. Such gross abuse would have given powerful ammunition to the many enemies of pension funds' legitimate tax privileges. The sooner the corruption was cut out, the better.

#### A brake on the great uninsured

ANYONE who, as a relatively new driver, has tried shopping around for car insurance knows that premiums vary wildly. This company will not quote at all for on-road parking. That one offers a contemptuous £1,000-plus a year on a car worth little more than five times that, a polite way of saying get lost and take your



PENNINGTON



PENNINGTON

custom with you. But a third will happily provide reasonable cover, and throw in a couple of no-claims bonus as an incentive if you are lucky.

This disparity suggests an industry out of kilter with market forces. Theoretically, insurance should be available to us all, but at a price that reflects our respective chances of being involved in a pile-up or having our car stolen. The principle of pooled risk requires all to be treated fairly, not charged exactly the same premium. This is why the no-claims bonus evolved in the first place, to reward those who keep their noses and bumpers clean.

The AA is concerned that the refusal by insurers to offer

affordable cover to those who are clearly poor risks is creating an underclass of uninsurables. One wonders where they have been, because that underclass already exists. Car insurance is so expensive that it is seen as an optional extra in some areas, which is why the Mutual Insurers' Bureau exists, paid for by the industry and so by legitimate policyholders, to provide restitution for law-abiding souls in collision with the great uninsured. The AA also worries that the Government may have to step in to prevent insurance companies discriminating against bad drivers.

What on earth is the Government meant to do? If insurers are compelled to provide cover for all, premiums for careful drivers will inevitably have to rise as the companies are forced to cross-subsidise, which hardly seems equitable. If whole fleets of beat-up Corinas and white contractors' vans are driving without insurance, then that is a matter for the courts. The truth is that the police are too busy or too uninterested to take action, and the penalties insufficient to deter.

United had to cough up when that club paid £15 million for Alan Shearer.

United has also been canny because players' salaries are soaring as their Arthur Daley-esque business advisers have persuaded their semi-literate charges to cash in on the new TV, sponsorship and kit deals being struck by the big clubs.

United has just signed a five-year deal with Unisys, reputed to be worth over £50 million. The club can expect about £7 million from TV rights this season and more than £10 million next, and is in talks with the likes of Granada and Nynex about a possible cable channel. Once pay-per-view TV comes in the income could be even higher — if an average match gets two million viewers paying a fiver each, and the income is split equally between the TV station and the clubs, and then equally between the clubs, the average take-per-game for United would be £2.5 million. Even at full 55,000 capacity, gate receipts at United's Old Trafford ground are just £1.4 million a game.

Which all explains why United has a market value of £260 million, or five times last year's turnover. No other club comes close. But then none other is a national franchise, drawing four fifths of its supporters from outside its local area.

## LucasVarity stake sold for £129m to mystery investor

By PAUL DURMAN

A MYSTERY investor is believed to have taken a £129 million stake in LucasVarity, the recently merged car components manufacturer.

The block of 52.25 million shares, a stake of 3.65 per cent, was sold yesterday by the Lucas pension scheme. The shares were bought by stockbrokers at SBC Warburg, acting, it is thought, for a single purchaser.

The scale of the purchase puts it beyond all but a

handful of the largest investment managers. The alternative explanation is that the stake has been bought by a rival company in the motor industry.

Lucas Industries, long seen as a takeover candidate, was briefly the subject of a bid in June, when BBA, the engineering group, attempted to block the company's merger with Varity, an American manufacturer of brake systems. BBA was forced to withdraw its

offer under pressure from its shareholders.

The Lucas pension fund has been shuffling its £3 billion of investments and was a known seller of the stake in Lucas, which dates back to the 1950s. However, the precise timing of the deal was prompted by SBC Warburg, who called the pension fund's manager yesterday morning.

Alan Rubenstein, director of Lucas Pensions Investment Management, said: "We were considering the exact timing of the disposal when we received a very fortuitous bid." The price paid for the shares was 246½ p each.

The share deal came as Lucas Industries reported better than expected annual results — the last pre-merger figures. Ignoring exceptional costs, pre-tax profits for the year to July 31 rose 41 per cent to £191 million.

Group sales rose 7 per cent to a little less than £3 billion. Sales from the automotive businesses grew 9 per cent to £2.46 billion. The aerospace business, feeling the first benefits of a surge in aircraft orders, increased sales 9 per cent to £528 million.

The profits contribution from automotive rose 14 per cent to £186.3 million, with margins improving to 7.6 per cent. Analysis were particularly impressed with the recovery in aerospace, where profits doubled to £46.7 million and margins improved to 8.9 per cent ahead of last year.

Thorntons also announced that it is to change its bonus scheme for directors.

The executive share option scheme is being replaced, subject to shareholders' approval, by a long-term incentive plan.

This will give senior managers and directors maximum annual bonuses of 50 per cent of salary in shares if earnings-per-share compound growth reaches 14 per cent plus inflation, with 1994-95 as a base, for three years.

The final dividend has been maintained at 3.8p and is payable on November 29. It gives an unchanged full-year dividend of 5.3p.

Tempus, page 28

## Thorntons plans £30m expansion

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

THORNTONS, the chocolate and toffee manufacturer and retailer, has revealed an ambitious £30 million plan to open 90 shops by 2000, creating 550 full-time jobs. It hopes to lift its share of the premium chocolates market from 12 to 21 per cent.

At the same time, Thorntons reported that a £22 million exceptional charge pushed the company into the red. It made a loss of £13.8 million in the 12 months to June 29, compared to a £10.5 million profit in the previous year. The charge covers the disposal of its Belgian and French subsidiaries and the closure of some manufacturing facilities.

The company is increasing its capital expenditure by £10 million per year, to an annual £17 million, for three years to cover the cost of the refits and openings which will take the chain to 359 shops. Immediate plans are for 43 new and restyled shops and 60 shop refits before Christmas.

Excluding exceptions, the company's profit fell to £8 million (£11 million), Roger Paffard, chief executive,

said that the hot summer of 1995 had hit sales. The company is now strengthening its all-year-round products and developing its day-to-day ranges, he said.

This includes efforts to boost sales of ice cream, chocolate bars and products aimed at children. Sales in the first few weeks of this year are strongly ahead of last year.

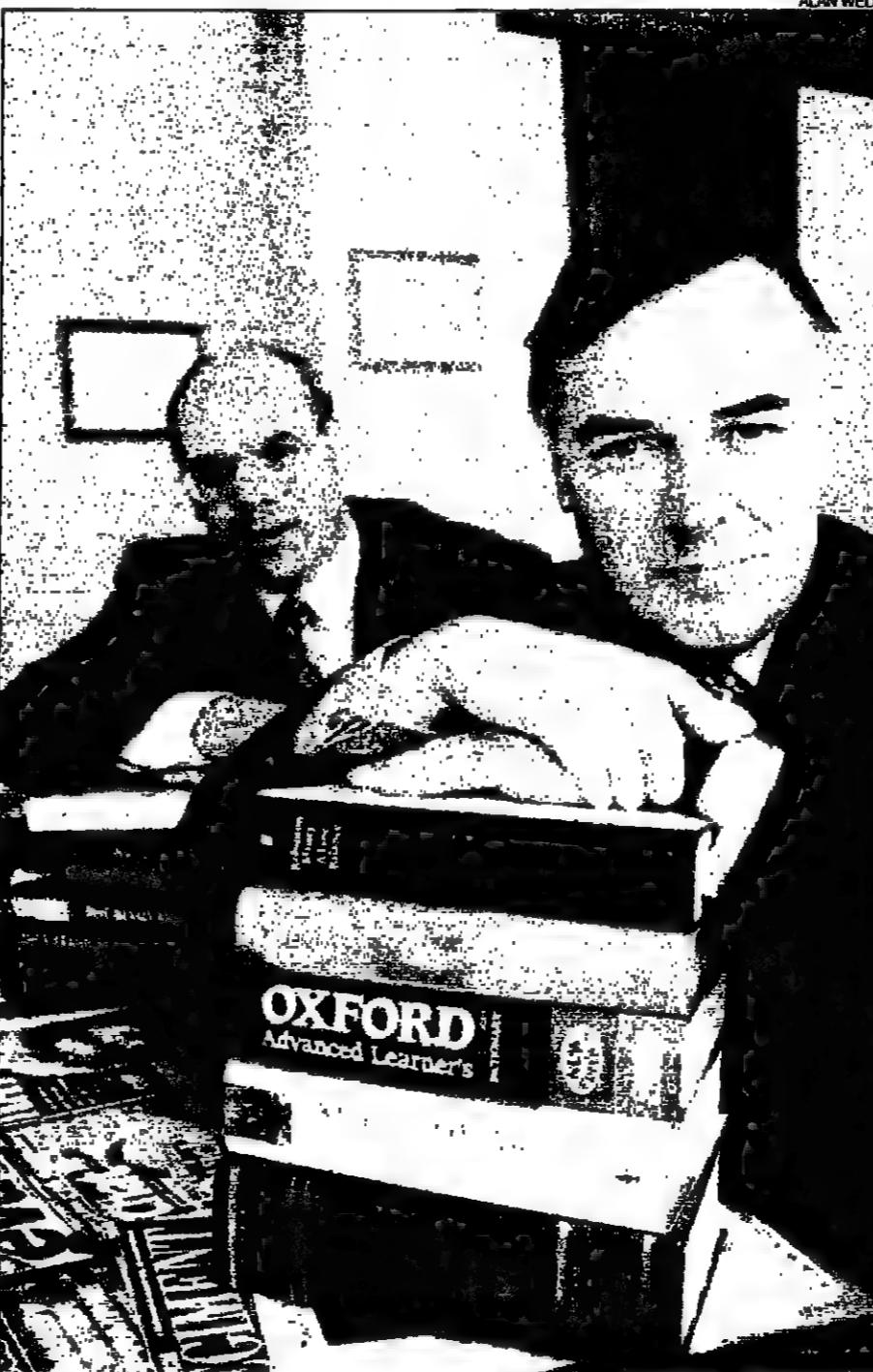
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Tempus, page 28



Miles Emley, chairman of St Ives, front, with Brian Edwards, chief executive

St Ives delivers 19% advance

By NOEL FUNG

ST IVES, the leading British printer of The Bible and the Queen's biography, achieved a healthy 19 per cent growth in full-year profit to £42.2 million in line with market expectations.

Buoyed by increasing business in direct mail and commercial work, turnover shot up by 24.5 per cent to £328.8 million.

Since the company had to supply the paper in direct response and commercial

work, increased turnover depressed the profit margin slightly from 13.5 per cent in 1995 to 12.8 per cent in 1996.

This booming revenue stream accounted for 30 per cent of turnover last year, a jump from 10 per cent two years ago.

The company's second major revenue contributor, magazine printing, recorded a drop in profit struck by deferred launches of new titles and volatile pagination

changes. Miles Emley, chairman, said: "This was the market least kind to us." The poor performance of the magazine division was more than mitigated by other business lines that showed strong growth — books and financial printing, each making up 15 per cent of the company's turnover.

The final dividend will be 7.1p, making the total dividend payout for the year 10p, an increase of 17.6 per cent.

## Dutch raider puts spoke in Reed bid for Blenheim

By JASON NISET

VNU, the Dutch publisher, yesterday put a spoke in the increasingly complex wheel of negotiations over the future of Blenheim Group when it bought a 15 per cent stake in the company in a dawn raid, paying 500p a share.

The raid forced Blenheim shares up to nearly 500p but they fell back after VNU said that it was not going to bid in the short-term. The shares ended at 464p, up 28p, valuing Blenheim at more than £440 million.

VNU is likely to increase its stake next week, possibly up to 29.9 per cent.

The move surprised Blenheim's board, which said that it did not encourage the raid because it was in talks with Reed Elsevier, the Anglo-Dutch media giant that was expected to make an offer at 480p a share.

Reed is now reconsidering its position but insiders believe it may still make its 480p offer in an attempt to squeeze VNU into making a firm move. A spokesman refused to comment about Reed's intentions.

Other bidders are also in the background. United News & Media called off talks with Blenheim a couple of months ago but a US group, believed to be K-Tel, is understood to be interested.

Martin Schikker, a director of VNU, said the company was interested in expanding into the exhibitions business and had been looking at Blenheim since the summer.

Though the company would not bid in the short-term unless someone else put in an offer, this could change in a year or two, he said. "It's part of our long-term investment strategy to expand into exhibitions."

Reed had been in off-and-on talks for some months. However, the price had been a sticking point with Neville Buch, Blenheim's chairman, who is pushing for more than 500p a share. He and other directors of the company

## M&C pays £81m for Britannia

By ERIC REGULY

MILLENNIUM and Copthorne Hotels yesterday paid £81 million for the Britannia Hotel in London, marking its first purchase since its April flotation, and said it expects to make more acquisitions in the near future.

Millennium bought the four-star, 318-room Britannia in Mayfair from InterContinental Hotels and Resorts, the Japanese leisure group. The hotel made an operating profit of about £5.3 million in 1995 on turnover of about £17 million.

The purchase was funded largely by debt and will raise Millennium's gearing from 34 per cent to 50 per cent. Peter Taylor, Millennium's UK regional director, said about £35 million will be spent to add a ballroom and function room to the Britannia.

The acquisition expands Millennium's British portfolio to 16 hotels. It has another five in Europe and three in the US.

The shares closed at 318p, up 28p on the day.

...follows, civvets, streets, diamonds  
Honest Fly, you're not cheap and nice



STOCK MARKET



MICHAEL CLARK

# Shares slow down after Clarke hits tax credits

SHARE prices on the London stock market staged an impressive 4-point turnaround to end the day in positive territory having briefly dipped back through the 4,000 level.

The news that Kenneth Clarke, Chancellor of the Exchequer, was going to end the tax credits on special dividends and share buybacks prompted an initial markdown. Among the worst hit, at first, were the banks and utilities with London Electricity down 24p at 605p, Barclays 72p at 967p and PowerGen 9p at 490p, although they managed to close above their worst of the day. Reuters finished down 20p at 750p and later moved to suspend a special dividend payment worth £613 million to shareholders.

The move by the Chancellor had already been widely anticipated and, as brokers pointed out, only affects pension funds. This, combined with an opening rise on Wall Street, enabled London eventually to regain its poise with the FTSE 100 index finishing 4.1 points up at a fresh record closing high of 4,035.6.

The future of Blenheim, the exhibitions group, was thrown into even more confusion after VNU, the Dutch publisher, splashed out nearly £70 million, snapping up almost 15 per cent of the shares in a dawn raid.

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Eurotunnel returned from suspension just 7p lower at 108p after publication of the equity-for-debt swap thrashed out with the banks. After



Martin Edwards, of Manchester United, yesterday

touching a low for the day of 102.4p, the price closed at 105p, a fall of 10p. Brokers appeared impressed with the resilience shown by the shares considering that existing shareholders are likely to be so heavily diluted.

Racial Electronics was left 14p lower at 276p after talking to brokers earlier this week. The company failed to

merger with LucasVarity received a lukewarm reception leaving the price 24p lighter at 247p by the close.

Dealers later reported a large put through of 52.2 million shares or 3.65 per cent, at 246.4p. The shares belonged to the Lucas electronics pension fund and reduces its stake to 1.17 million.

Better than expected profits

Burtonwood climbed 10p to a year's high of 185p on talk of a bid. But brokers who follow the company say they had been warned to expect the shares being tipped in several publications over the weekend in an attempt to squeeze the price higher. Cazenove will only quote price and size in 1,000 shares at a time.

Up to their expectations and a number of profit downgradings are expected to follow. Radio communications has been a dull spot although its marine and energy and defence interests have lived up to expectations. The group is hoping to win a major order on the defence telecom side from the Ministry of Defence soon.

Half-year figures from new-

news at St Ives was rewarded with a rise of 14p at 462.4p. Even last year's league and cup double winner Manchester United put on 2p at 453.4p despite a profits downturn. Martin Edwards, chief executive, blamed the setback on a rising wage bill and the loss of revenue from developing its main stand at Old Trafford.

Blitz continued to lose

in the future pit, the December series of the long gilt came back to £101.52, at one stage, before promptly rebounding to finish 5.4p better at £104.4p as 66,000 contracts were completed.

In longs, Treasury 8 per cent was E1.4p higher at £102.16, while in shorts Treasury 8 per cent 2000 firmed a couple of ticks to £104.43.

**■ NEW YORK:** Profit-taking continued in morning trading on Wall Street, cutting back early share rises. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 4.10 points higher at 5,983.91.

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# How US companies provide a flexible helping hand

The complex US electoral rules on party funding and donations are a legacy of the Watergate scandal in the 1970s. The rules were designed to make the system more transparent, but have fallen into increasing disrepute as the parties and interest groups, including corporations, have become more adept at exploiting loopholes.

Companies are not permitted to make direct donations to candidates to help with campaigns but can participate in the elections in two ways. First, companies can help to constitute political action committees (PACs). Corporate PACs

resemble the trade union levy in this country in that funds are normally raised through an optional levy on employee wages. The employees also normally elect a committee constituted independently of the company, which decides to which candidates the money will be distributed.

Corporate PACs are limited to making a maximum donation of \$5,000 to individual candidates for each election, including party selection battles such as primaries. The effect of the tight donation cap has been for PACs to spread their money widely among the candidates, with Brown and Williamson,



BAT's tobacco subsidiary, supporting 206 candidates in the current set of elections and Glaxo funding 203. Money that is not donated to the

candidates but to the central party apparatus is described as soft money and can be donated directly from company funds. The restric-

tions on soft money funding are blurred, and soft money donations have risen relentlessly in recent years, prompting criticism of the unhealthy financial relationship between the political parties and interest groups. The growth of soft money has also resulted in vastly increasing the power of the central party organisations.

Companies can support the parties by providing direct donations for mobilising voters or administration, by offering services for free or by taking a table, costing anything up to \$200,000, at the various fund-raising dinners. United Airlines, for instance, sponsored the Democrats

convention centre in Chicago, while AT&T, the giant telecommunications company, spent more than \$1 million providing free phone services for both party conventions.

In the UK, direct donations to the parties are still legal, although the 1988 Companies Act requires corporations to disclose any direct and indirect political expenditure in its accounts. Donations made abroad, however, do not need to be declared. But there is growing pressure from corporate governance campaigners to force companies to seek the permission of shareholders before making political donations.



## Penny drops a little late

NEVER trust a man who waves a copy of *The Penny Share Guide*, the newsletter for small investors. This week's copy includes a telling tip: "Or what about top performer Pan Andean Resources? Imagine making a return of 680 per cent on an investment of £1,000... It means that in just 12 months your £1,000 could have made you £5,280 pure profit!"

Well boys, not any more it wouldn't. Pan Andean's share price plunged from 12p to 37.5p between Monday and Friday of last week. Oh, and the Stock Exchange is currently conducting an investigation into the drastic drop in the share price.

**THE Chinese walls will be put to the test today when Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, speaks at the Conservative Party conference. Lang is busy studying the implications of British Airways' proposed alliance with American Airlines. He will be joined on the platform by Sir Colin Marshall, BA's chairman, but wearing his Confederation of British Industry hat.**

## B&B culture

THE Bradford & Bingley chief executive, Christopher Rodrigues, has abolished executive car parking at the building society's headquarters in Yorkshire. As an archetypal McKinsey man he also encourages "colleagues" to eat together at the canteen, where his penchant for cucumber and marmite sandwiches has established a cult following.

Sporting a white shirt, another mark of a McKinsey clone, Rodrigues explains that because he works McKinsey hours, finding a parking place in the morning is not usually a problem.

**JOLLY good news from Vodafone on the announcement of its new chief executive: Sir Gerald Whent went and has been replaced by a Gent.**

## Outside price

MY STORY last week about Michael Kerridge, a deputy tax director at Barclays Bank, appealing against unfair dismissal, never made it to an industrial tribunal. At the eleventh hour, Barclays opted for an outside settlement. Instead, Kerridge will be sent a reference and tax-exempt compensation — enough to buy another Mercedes.

**HAVING been unceremoniously dumped from the Forbes list of the 400 richest Americans during the 1990s when his business empire went into decline — the magazine said his net worth at the time was "within hailing distance of zero" — Donald Trump finds himself reinstated in the latest line-up. The magazine says that his fortune is estimated at \$450 million: Trump says \$2 billion.**

MORAG PRESTON

# Party to \$2 billion cost of funding a political campaign

Alfonse D'Amato, the New York senator, has backing from eight firms

The American political system has developed a voracious appetite for money. The last combined presidential and congressional campaign cost well in excess of \$1 billion and the expectations are that spending could reach \$2 billion by the time the current election campaign concludes next month.

About two thirds of the money is consumed by TV advertising as candidates use saturation tactics to ram home their message to the voters. The system has been likened to the arms race, with funding based not on need, but with each party building an ever-larger war chest to ensure its rivals cannot spend more.

Corporate funding, whether it is through Political Action Committees or "soft money", has become integral to the US political system. As some companies lavish ever-increasing sums on the main political parties, so other businesses have felt the need to participate to ensure their viewpoint is heard. The tobacco companies are desperate to combat the influence of the vociferous anti-smoking lobby, while the long-distance telecommunications companies, including AT&T and MCI, have been keen to neutralise the message of the regional Baby Bells.

British companies that own significant US operations have inevitably been drawn into the political sphere. BAT Industries is the largest British contributor to US political parties. Spending associated with its two main US subsidiaries, Brown and Williamson, the tobacco company, and Farmers, the insurer, total \$730,000 during the current election cycle.

Michael Prideaux, of BAT, is quite clear about the necessity of the company becoming a player on the Washington stage. "All US companies make political donations," he says. "It is the whole way of doing business in the US and we'reholders expect us to behave like other companies."

It is difficult to relate directly corporate political spending with benefits. But, inevitably, those companies involved in politically sensitive or heavily regulated sectors have been the biggest spenders in recent years. The tobacco industry

has donated about \$20 million over the past ten years. But the level of spending has more than doubled since 1993, when the legal and legislative battles over tobacco regulation were renewed with presidential backing for anti-smoking objectives.

Oil and gas companies, meanwhile, have spent about \$20 million in soft money seeking to combat tougher environmental legislation and the threat of an energy tax.

The record for political spending success is mixed. The Clinton presidency managed to push through some anti-smoking measures in the summer.

On the other hand, the long-distance telecommunication companies led by AT&T and MCI, in which BT holds a 20 per cent stake, managed to change a clause in the telecommunications bill that threatened to allow the regional Baby Bells to enter the long-distance market without giving up their own local monopoly. MCI has

regulated businesses, it is in their interest to contribute funds. The donations enable companies such as Brown and Williamson to inform debate on the issues such as tax, small government and regulation, which affect the company."

Most of the money has been channelled recently into the

Republican Party, but unlike in the UK, where donations to more than one party have been rare, some form of double donation is the norm. In part, this reflects the relatively small political differences between the two main parties. The Democrats are just as eager for campaign money and, with

trade union funding providing a relatively modest proportion of the party's needs, it has always fostered links with business. It also reflects the desire of companies to hedge their bets — after all, even on apparently politicised issues such as smoking or healthcare reform, corporations can normally find some Democrats who support their view.

Glaxo — associated with spending totalling \$680,000 this election — contributed nearly \$90,000 to the Democrats, compared with \$400,000 to the Republicans. The money was donated in spite of a Democrat leading the fight to close the loophole which has allowed the company a three-year extension on its US patent of Zantac, its bestselling drug.

The company has also faced an investigation by the Food and Drug Administration into price changes by the pharmaceutical companies to small chemists in addition to the

long-running battle over healthcare reform.

The contrast between the situation in the US, where corporate political spending continues to spiral upwards, and the UK could not be greater. British companies have deserted politics, and the Conservative Party in particular, en masse since the last election. About 100 leading companies have severed links with the Tories altogether. The total contributed by FTSE 100 companies has fallen from a high of £1.14 million in 1991 to £760,000 last year, according to Pensions and Investments Research Consultants, the research group.

Of the leading British donors of the UK, only two, Tate & Lyle and Hanson, are currently making UK donations, totalling just £125,000. They have spent \$3.35 million in the US. Allied Domex, which last made a donation in 1994, said it

no longer gave money in the

UK because it felt it was largely irrelevant because of its status as primarily an international company. But Hirram, Allied's US subsidiary, has contributed more than \$50,000 to this election campaign.

BAT was more specific: "We feel that donations are not as integral a part of the UK system as they are in the US," explained Mr Prideaux.

The exodus of British companies from political funding can be understood as the American experience in reverse. Companies no longer feel the need to provide money to keep up with their rivals and, given the current controversy surrounding party funding in this country, are often only too pleased to withdraw from the firing line. Martin Sutton, of Glaxo, which recently announced it was ending political contributions, said: "One of the company's main considerations in stopping funding the Conservative Party was that none of the other pharmaceutical companies provided cash."

This has not, of course, ended all corporate involvement in the political system, as last week's revelations about Neil Hamilton show. In the US, lobbying is also part of the package. The tobacco industry has spent about \$15 million this year on trying to prevent anti-smoking legislation.

Tomkins, which owns Smith and Wesson, the gun manufacturer, has not felt the need to donate money in the US even though it is one of the few remaining loyal Conservative donors in the UK. The company enjoys the benefits of the powerful National Rifle Association, which lobbies for broadly the same aims. The NRA has contributed \$3.1 million in PAC and soft money, distributed among pro-gun candidates.

A few leading British companies, with important US subsidiaries, have resisted the temptation to become involved in US politics. Cadbury Schweppes adheres strictly to a non-participating philosophy and the PAC at Dr Pepper, its drinks offshoot, is now dormant in spite of heavy spending by rivals such as Coca-Cola and Pepsi. The jury, however, is still out on whether a course of non-intervention is a wise approach in the dollar-charged world of US politics.

## Key candidates reap their reward



Thompson: popular

Frederick Thompson, the most popular candidate for Tennessee after Al Gore moved to the vice-presidency, is the next most popular representative, receiving a total of \$24,000 from eight different companies. Senator Thompson sits on the Senate foreign relations and governmental affairs committees. Brown and Williamson is based in the state, another major tobacco company.

Glaxo Wellcome and BAT Industries both made the maximum permissible donation of \$10,000, which covered both the primaries and the election itself. Senator Helms has been a strong supporter of the tobacco industry, with one out of ten jobs in North Carolina dependent on it.

Another senatorial candidate in North Carolina to receive a contribution from Glaxo is Charles Sanders. Mr Sanders also happens to be a former chairman and chief executive officer of Glaxo in the US. Mr Sanders attracted support for the democratic nomination from Zeneca and SmithKline Beecham, but ultimately lost in the primaries.

Other popular candidates include Alfonse D'Amato, senator for New York and chairman of the banking committee, who secured \$16,750 from eight different companies. Senator D'Amato has also been leading the Whitewater investigation into

the Clintons' financial affairs and is chairman of Bob Dole's re-election committee.

The most supported member of the House of Representatives is Thomas DeLay, representative for Texas, who has likened the US Environment Protection Agency to the gestapo. Congressman DeLay, who received \$16,500 from nine different companies, serves as Republican chief whip.

Thomas Bliley, chairman of the House of Representatives commerce committee, was awarded \$12,000 from seven companies. The commerce committee wields tremendous influence over tobacco-related legislation, and Congressman Bliley has been the top recipient of PAC money from tobacco companies over the past decade. Newt Gingrich, Republican house leader, received \$11,000 from eight companies.

The most popular Democratic candidate is Max Baucus, senator for Massachusetts, who received \$11,500 from five companies. He sits on the environment and public works committee and has consistently opposed a petrol tax rise.



Thompson: strong backing

## The business cycle takes a holiday



ANTHONY KAMM

mathematician would have no difficulty in defining what is happening to economic statistics: they are obeying the law of random numbers. This dictates that any pattern you may detect in a series of numbers will be invalidated by the next numbers that come up. However, to define is not to explain.

We may observe that patterns that used to be reliable are suddenly a jumble, but we may still wonder why. That question must be left to the old-fashioned economist — not a forecaster, but an analyst. His explanation would have to start by looking for a cause or causes. It might go something like this.

The US economy is booming? It suddenly weakens. Commodity prices up? No. Down. Sterling the sick man of Europe? At the moment, it's about the strongest currency in the world. No wonder computer models, still revered in Threadneedle Street, produce such poor results. A

macro-economist, have failed. What nearly all have "achieved" is a large switch in spending from investment and services to welfare support; and now they are struggling to cut that. So tax and spending policies have generally had a dampening effect on our spirits, and on activity. Central banks, thanks to the once single-handed efforts of Alan Greenspan, the Fed chairman, are trying to offset this fiscal drag; but most of them are still doing too little, too late. The sluggish world of the '90s, in short, is pretty much what finance ministers

sustained private confidence, and at that, bull sentiment has only been really effective in the US and to some extent here.

You may find yourself trying to pick holes in this analysis. I have tried myself, because the thought that the world economy depends on the bull market is frightening enough, and dependence on Japanese policy fashion rather worse.

Indeed, the major lesson of the last decade may be simply this: an economy driven by private decisions about spending, saving and real investment is much stabler than one with the benefit of official management. A thought to frighten policy wonks; but not you.



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# Community interests prevail over wish of gypsy to live on her own land

**Buckley v United Kingdom**

(Case 23/1995/29/615)

Before R. Bernhardt, President and Judges Thor Vilhjalmsson, L-E. Pettifor, A. N. Loizou, J. M. Morenilla, Sir John Freeland, B. Repik, K. Jungwirt and U. Lohmus

Registrar H. Petzold

Deputy Registrar P. Mahoney

Judgment September 25

The refusal of planning permission in respect of three caravans occupied by a gypsy, her children and her mother, was not in breach of the European Convention on Human Rights. The interests of the community had to be balanced against the applicant's right to respect for her home as guaranteed by article 8 of the Convention.

In the present case, the European Court of Human Rights, by six votes to three, did not find that the national authorities exceeded their margin of appreciation in refusing planning permission which would enable the applicant to live in caravans on land which she owned.

The Court also held, by eight votes to one, that as the applicant was not penalised or subjected to any detrimental treatment for attempting to follow a traditional gypsy lifestyle, there was no violation of article 14 of the Convention taken together with article 8.

**Article 8 of the Convention provides:**

"Everyone has the right to respect for his private and family life, his home and his correspondence."

"There shall be no interference by a public authority with the exercise of this right except such as in accordance with the law and is necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security, public safety or the economic well-being of the country, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals or for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others."

**Article 14 provides:**

"The enjoyment of the rights and freedoms set forth in the Convention shall be secured without

discrimination on any ground such as sex, race, colour, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, association with a national minority, property, birth or other status."

The application was lodged with the European Commission on February 7, 1992 and was declared admissible on March 3, 1994.

Having attempted unsuccessfully to secure a friendly settlement, the Commission drew up a report on January 11, 1995 in which it established the facts and expressed the opinion that there had been a violation of article 8 of the Convention (seven votes to five).

In its judgment, the European Court of Human Rights held as follows:

**1. Scope of case before the Court**

A. Applicant's complaint under article 8 taken together with article 14

Although the Commission considered the case only under article 8 of the Convention, the Court found that the applicant's additional complaint under article 14 taken together with article 8 was encompassed in the Commission's decision declaring the application admissible and that accordingly it had jurisdiction to examine it (see *Philips v Great Britain* (Times December 22, 1991; Series A, No 209, paragraph 50).

**B. Applicant's "formal objections"**

The Court hearing on February 10, 1996, the UK Government referred to the fact that the applicant had not appealed to the High Court against the decision of the district court of April 16, 1991. In a letter received at the Registry on February 21, 1996, the applicant's solicitor sought to place on record formal objections to the effect that any preliminary objection raised by the Government on that account should be dismissed as out of time and barred by estoppel (see Rule 48, paragraph 1, of Rules of Court A).

However, the Government had not framed its comment as a preliminary objection. It had cited that fact in support of its contention that sufficient procedural safeguards had been available to the applicant. The Court found that to be an argument going to the

merits, to be considered at the appropriate juncture.

**II. Article 8 of the Convention**

A. Whether a right protected by article 8 was at issue

The Government denied that any of the applicant's rights under article 8 were at issue. In its contention, only a home legally established could attract the protection of that provision.

The Court, however, was satisfied that the applicant bought the land to establish her residence there. She had lived there almost continuously since 1988, save for an absence of two weeks, for family reasons, in 1993, and it had not been suggested that she had established, or intended to establish, another residence elsewhere.

Therefore, notwithstanding the fact that the applicant had acted in contravention of national law, the Court found that the case concerned the applicant's right to respect for her home. The Court considered that similar considerations applied in this case as in the case of *Gillow v United Kingdom* (The Times November 29, 1986; Series A, No 109).

B. Whether there was an "interference by a public authority"

The applicant asked the Court to review the designation regime under the Caravan Sites Act 1968, which in her contention made it extremely difficult for gypsies to follow their traditional lifestyle, and the criminalisation of "unauthorised campers" by the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, which, she submitted, was even more restrictive.

The Court reiterated that it was not its task to review legislation in the abstract. Since it did not appear that any measures based on either the 1968 Act or the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 had ever been taken against the applicant, the Court did not find it within its competence to entertain any of the applicant's claims which were based on those Acts.

On the other hand, the applicant had been refused the planning permission which would have allowed her to live in the caravans

on her land, had been required to remove the caravans and had been prosecuted for failing to do so, all pursuant to the relevant sections of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

That undoubtedly constituted interference by a public authority with the applicant's exercise of her right to respect for her home, see, mutatis mutandis, *Gillow* (at paragraph 47).

C. Whether the interference was "in accordance with the law"

It was not contested that the measures to which the applicant had been subjected had been in accordance with the law.

D. Whether the interference pursued a "legitimate aim"

According to the Government, the measures in question had been taken in the enforcement of planning controls aimed at furthering highway safety, the preservation of the environment and public health.

The legitimate aims pursued were therefore public safety, the economic well-being of the country, the protection of health and the protection of the rights of others.

On the facts of the case, the Court saw no reason to doubt that the measures in question pursued the legitimate aims stated by the Government.

E. Whether the interference was "necessary in a democratic society"

The Court reiterated its case law, according to which it was for the national authorities to make the initial assessment of the necessity for an interference, as regards both the legislative framework and the particular measure of implementation.

Although a margin of appreciation was thereby left to the national authorities, their decision remained subject to review by the Court for conformity with the requirements of the Convention.

The scope of that margin of appreciation was not identical in each case but varied according to the context. Relevant factors included the nature of the Convention right in issue, its importance

for the individual and the nature of the activities concerned.

The Court had already had occasion to note, in the context of article 6.1 of the Convention and article 1 of Protocol No 1, that town and country planning schemes involved the exercise of discretionary judgement in the implementation of policies adopted in the interests of the community.

In so far as the exercise of local factors was inherent in the choice and implementation of planning policies, the national authorities in principle enjoyed a wide margin of appreciation.

The Court could not ignore,

however, that in the instant case the interests of the community were to be balanced against the applicant's right to respect for her home. The importance of that right for the applicant and her family had also to be taken into account.

Whenever discretion capable of interfering with the enjoyment of a Convention right such as the one at issue in the present case was conferred on national authorities, the decision-making process leading to measures of interference had to be fair and such as to afford due respect to the interests safeguarded by the individual by article 8.

The Court's task was to determine, on the basis of the above principles, whether the reasons relied on to justify the interference in question were relevant and sufficient under article 8.2.

F. Application of the above principles

The Court noted that the law governing the decision-making process leading to the contested decision entitled the applicant to appeal to the secretary of state on the ground, inter alia, that planning permission ought to have been granted. Moreover, the appeal procedure had comprised an assessment by a qualified independent expert, the inspector, to whom the applicant had been entitled to make representations.

The Court was satisfied that the procedural safeguards provided for in the regulatory framework were therefore such as to afford

due respect to the applicant's interests under article 8.

Subsequent judicial review by the High Court was also available. In the event, the applicant had declined to appeal to the High Court on the advice of counsel that such an appeal was bound to fail.

In the instant case, an investigation had been carried out by the inspector, who had actually seen the land for herself and considered written representations submitted by the applicant and the district council. In conformity with Government policy, the special needs of the applicant as a gypsy following a traditional lifestyle had been taken into account.

The inspector and later the secretary of state had regard to the shortage of gypsy caravan sites in the area and weighed the applicant's interest in being allowed to continue living on her land in caravans against the general interest of conforming to planning policy.

They had found the latter interest to have greater weight given the particular circumstances pertaining to the area in question.

The applicant had twice been offered the opportunity to apply for a pitch on an official caravan site in the vicinity.

Although the alternative accommodation available at that location might not be as satisfactory as the dwelling which she had established in contravention of the legal requirements, article 8 did not necessarily go so far as to allow individuals' preferences as to their place of residence to override the general interest.

It was also true that subsequently a second inspector had found that the applicant's caravans could have been adequately screened from view by planting hedges.

That would have hidden them from view but, so the inspector had concluded, would not have reduced their intrusion into open countryside in a way which national and local planning policy sought to prevent.

After the refusal of planning permission the applicant had been

fined relatively small sums for failing to remove her caravans. To date she had not been forcibly evicted from her land but had continued to reside there.

In the light of the foregoing, the Court considered that proper regard had been had to the applicant's predicament.

Although facts had been adduced arguing in favour of another outcome at national level, the Court was satisfied that the reasons relied on by the responsible planning authorities were relevant and sufficient, for the purposes of article 8, to justify the resultant interference with the exercise by the applicant of her right to respect for her home.

In particular, the means employed to achieve the legitimate aim pursued could not be regarded as disproportionate. In sum, the Court did not find that in the present case the national authorities had exceeded their margin of appreciation.

In conclusion, the Court held by six votes to three, Judges Pettifor, Lohmus and Pettifor dissenting, that there had been no violation of article 8.

**III. Article 14 taken in conjunction with article 8**

In the applicant's contention, both the 1968 Act and the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 were discriminatory in that they prevented gypsies from pursuing their traditional lifestyle.

The Court reiterated that it did not consider any of the applicant's claims based on either Act. More generally, it did not appear that the applicant had at any time been penalised or subjected to any detrimental treatment for attempting to follow a traditional gypsy lifestyle.

In fact, it appeared that the relevant national policy had been aimed at enabling gypsies to cater for their own needs. That being so, the applicant could not claim to have been the victim of discrimination contrary to article 14 taken together with article 8.

Accordingly, Judge Pettifor dissenting, there had been no violation under that head.

## Court of Appeal

### Agreement can be broken

**Mainwaring and Another v Trustees of Henry Smith's Charity (No 2)**

Before Lord Justice Hirst, Lord Justice Peter Gibson and Lord Justice Pill

Judgment October 3]

Where the landlord of a block of flats proposed to dispose of his interest, a tenant who was qualified under the Landlord and Tenant Act 1987 and had signed a notice accepting the landlord's offer of first refusal could withdraw before the notice before it was served even though he had signed an irrevocable agreement not to do so.

The tenant's freedom not to desire to participate in acquiring the freehold from the landlord as provided by the Act had to be read into the statutory framework and could not be taken away by contract.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing an appeal by M. Zipporah Mainwaring and Yeoman's Row Management Ltd against a declaration by Judge Cowell on September 19, 1996 at West London County Court that no valid acceptance of the offer contained in a notice served by the

landlords of 38 to 62 (even numbers) Yeoman's Row, Chelsea, London was made by the requisite majority of qualifying tenants of the constituent flats of the property and that accordingly the trustees were free to proceed with the sale of the property to the Wellcome Trust Ltd.

Section 6 of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1987 provides: "(1) Where (a) the landlord has... served an notice on the qualifying tenants of the constituent flats, and (b) within the period specified in that notice... a notice is served on him by the requisite majority of qualifying tenants of the constituent flats informing him that the persons by whom it is accepted the offer contained in the notice, the landlord shall not during the relevant period dispose of the protected interest except to a person or persons nominated... by the requisite majority of qualifying tenants."

The judge had found that Mr Addison had always been entitled to withdraw before the tenants' notice was served on the landlord.

The appellants' central submission was that Mr Addison could not withdraw his consent having made and irrevocable agreement not to do so and having signed the section 6 notice.

In his Lordship's judgment a desire not to participate need not be expressed in any formal way. The tenant's freedom not to desire to participate had to be read into the statutory framework. What was given by statute could not be taken away by contract.

Mr Mainwaring in person for the appellants: Mr Timothy Fancourt for the respondents.

**LORD JUSTICE PILL** said the Henry Smith Trustees planned to sell to the Wellcome Trust but had

notified the applicants of the notice served on the landlord.

**REGINA v Legal Aid Board, Ex parte Graham Dobson & Co (a Firm)**

Before Lord Justice Simon Brown and Mr Justice Gage

Judgment October 7]

A Newton hearing (*R v Newton* [1982] 77 Cr App R 13) into the factual basis of a guilty plea was not a contested hearing for the purposes of paragraph 2(2) of Part III of Schedule 1 to the Legal Aid in Courts and Tribunals Proceedings (Costs) Regulations 1989 (SI 1989 No 343), as amended by the Legal Aid in Criminal and Care Proceedings (Costs) (Amendment) Regulations [SI 1993 No 936].

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held when dismissing an application by Graham Dobson & Co, solicitors, for judicial review of the decision of March 27, 1995 of the Legal Aid Board's costs appeal committee to uphold the area committee's decision that the applicants' claim for a Newton hearing in the conduct of a "contested trial" did not come within the "contested trials" category 2.1 of paragraph 2(2) of Part III of Schedule 1 to the 1989 Regulations, as amended.

The defendant had pleaded guilty to a charge of using threatening words. A Newton hearing was fixed to decide whether there had been an element of racial abuse.

The regulations provided a scheme for the payment of fees to those appearing on behalf of legally aided parties. Fees were determined on a hierarchical basis according to which of three categories of work was involved: categories 1 and 2 were relevant to the present proceedings.

The applicant contended that the case fell within category 2 of paragraph 2(2). Accordingly a higher fee than that pertaining to guilty pleas in category 1.1 was appropriate.

Mr Graham Cooke for the applicant: Ms Beverley Lang for the respondents.

**LORD JUSTICE SIMON BROWN** said that the issue was whether a Newton hearing could be a contested trial for the purposes of the regulations.

The appeal committee had concluded that a Newton hearing was not a contested trial but a way of establishing the facts and the fact that it was run in a similar way to a trial did not mean that it was a contested trial. A trial was a trial of criminal guilt whereas a Newton hearing was one where the precise factual basis was disputed and the true facts could not be satisfactorily resolved otherwise.

His Lordship rejected the applicant's arguments, although ably presented. It was perfectly plain, his Lordship said, that a contested hearing within the regulations meant a trial of criminal guilt as such following the expectation of a guilty plea.

There was an antithesis between a guilty plea in category 1.1 and a contested trial in category 2.1 made clearer by the terms of category 2.2.

Newton hearings were of course contested and involved a trial in the general sense of factual issues but that did not mean to say that they were "contested trials" within the meaning of the regulations. A Newton hearing could not transform a guilty plea into a contested trial and accordingly the appeal committee was correct.

Mr Justice Gage agreed.

Solicitors: Graham Dobson & Co, Orpington: Mr Richard Green.

## Law Report October 9 1996

### Hearing not contested

**Regina v Legal Aid Board, Ex parte Graham Dobson & Co (a Firm)**



## ■ FILM

Biding his time for one more 'grand cinematic adventure', Francis Ford Coppola is game for a laugh



## ■ THEATRE

At the King's Head a new legal comedy, *Accommodating Eva*, offers a jolly night out



## ■ TICKETS

Bernard Haitink conducting the Covent Garden Ring; see our Theatre Club for unbeatable offers



## ■ TOMORROW

Best classical recordings of the year: *The Gramophone* magazine unveils its annual awards

The much-mellowed Francis Ford Coppola tells Martyn Palmer about his surprising new film, *Jack*

# More grapes, less wrath

**W**hen a director of the ground-breaking stature of Francis Ford Coppola, a five-times Oscar winner, agreed to direct *Jack*, a mainstream, rather sentimental comedy drama, the highbrow eyebrows were bound to twitch a little. After all, this is the first time that Coppola has been back behind the lens since 1991's *Dracula*, and *Jack*, a Disney vehicle for Robin Williams, would not seem the kind of fare that would tempt the maker of *The Godfather* trilogy, *The Conversation* and *An Apocalypso Now*.

The 57-year-old director admits that these days the family wine business, centred on his home in California's Napa Valley, is of equal importance to making movies. As Williams, a close friend and neighbour for 15 years, puts it: "Francis wants to make movies and make wine. He is in a very mellow frame of mind right now and I think this movie is part of it."

Also, taking this job as a "professional director" enables Coppola to plough his fee into his company, American Zoetrope, to fund at least one more grand cinematic adventure. "I support my family with the wine business and if I can make money from the film business I use it to subsidise my personal work," he says. "It's a bit like the artist, Christo. Part of his art is to wrap up buildings and another part of it is to figure out how to raise money to do it. I feel a bit like that."

These days, Coppola sees himself as something of an outsider whose "personal" work is somewhat outside the commercial mainstream and will not get a green light from a big studio unless it is sufficiently bankrolled in the first place. "I would very much like to make a personal film on the scale of an *Apocalypse Now*, from an original script and an original story that I have written," he says. "But that type of movie is especially difficult to do today. The movies being made now tend to be remakes of old movies or ones that are similar to films that have already been made."

"In my life I've only ever made two films that were totally from my original stories — *The Conversation* and *The Rain People* — and I would very much like to do that again."

Coppola is reluctant to say what the subject-matter of this original work might be, but Fred Fuchs, a close friend and president of American Zoetrope, says that there are "three or four scripts" that Coppola has been working on. He has also had meetings with the *Godfather* author Mario Puzo, and the possibility of a *Godfather Part IV* has not been discounted.

It's not how long you live, it's how well and completely you live

Coppola seems to have rediscovered his enthusiasm for directing, after suggesting in an interview two years ago that he might never make another film. His financial prudence is explained by the near bankruptcy of Zoetrope in the early 1980s, which left him with debts of around \$40 million. Coppola obviously feels that things have to be different now. And, even if he did do *Jack* just for the money, he strongly defends it.

"I've always tried different styles," he says. "Peggy Sue Got Married was a kind of sweet fable, and in a way *Jack* is like that. Even though *Jack* didn't originate with me I tried to tackle the story with as much feeling and love as I could."

Jack (Williams) is a ten-year-old boy born with a fictitious condition that ages him four years for every one. At ten he is a lonely adult-child trapped at home, who yearns for the company of other children. His parents finally concede that he should be allowed to go to school and mix with his own age group. When he does, of course, he is something of a freak, an outsider who has to

fight to be accepted. The themes of loneliness, the desire to fit in and the precariousness of life are ones that Coppola says he can readily relate to.

"When I was nine I was confined to a room for over a year with polio, and because polio is a child's illness they kept every other kid away from me," he says. "I remember being pinned to this bed and being hungry, longing for friends and company. When I read *Jack* I was moved because that was precisely his problem: there are no children in his life."

In typical Coppola fashion, the director made Williams immerse himself in the role by spending three weeks with the real ten-year-olds in the cast before filming even started. "We just ran around up at his place," says Williams. "It was great, because you assimilate behaviour without even knowing it."

For Coppola the next directing job may be another at the request of a big studio, with a script he likes and a fear that he can put towards that "personal project". In the meantime, he is happy enough tending grapes in the Napa Valley. "I've always had a childlike attitude to things, which is to be in the moment and not to waste such a precious thing as life worrying about what is going to happen. In a way, that's the theme of *Jack*. All of our lives are racing by — his faster than most of us — and it's not how long you live, it's how well you live and how completely you live."

• *Jack* is reviewed by Geoff Brown tomorrow and opens on Friday

fight to be accepted. The themes of loneliness, the desire to fit in and the precariousness of life are ones that Coppola says he can readily relate to.



The money Francis Ford Coppola got for making *Jack* will help to finance another of his "personal" films

## THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL OFFERS

## LONDON

Royal Opera House Oct 16, 19

• A DOUBLE helping of Wagner's Siegfried (Oct 18) and *Götterdämmerung* (Oct 19) come to Covent Garden in Richard Jones's compelling production. Bernard Haitink conducts Anne Evans (Oct 18) and Deborah Polaski (Oct 19) as Brünnhilde and Sieghardt Jerusalem as Sieglinde. Club members can buy two orchestra seats for the price of one (normally £121 to £132). Tel 0171-304 4000, quoting reference "STTC".

Haymarket Theatre October 11

• THE ACTOR, pop star and actor again Jason Donovan returns to the West End in Emlyn Williams's classic thriller, *Night Must Fall*, alongside Rosemary Leach. Club members can buy two £24 tickets for the opening night. Tel 0171-920 8800.

BRIGHTON

Salls Beany Theatre, University of Brighton Oct 25-26; Nov 2-3

• TWO £10 tickets for the price of one to two world premieres at Visions '96, the festival of international new theatre. Improbable Theatre's *70 Hill Lane* (Oct 25-26) investigates strange cultist activity, while *Le Clan des Songes*' Flying Start (Nov 2-3) is a puppet show with music. Tel 01273 709709.

DUNDEE

Denby Rep Theatre Oct 15-16

• TWO tickets for the price of

THE TIMES  
THEATRE CLUB

one (normally £7 to £8.75) for the world premiere of *Hyde*, Peter Arnott's study of psychological terror based on Robert Louis Stevenson's classic, *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*. Tel 01382 223330.

## HUDDERSFIELD

Lawrence Bailey Theatre Oct 28

• TWO £10 tickets for the price of one for the comedy musical *Shakers*, another in the long line of instant classics by John Godber. Tel 01484 430528.

## LIVERPOOL

Everyman Theatre Oct 29-30

• TWO tickets for the price of one (normally £6 to £9.75) to Method & Madness's summing adaptation of Henrik Ibsen's masterpiece, *Ghosts*. Tel 0151 709 4776.

## COVENTRY

Brigode Theatre Oct 17-19

• TWO tickets for the price of one (normally £9 to £15) for Oliver Goldsmith's boisterous comedy of (bad) manners, *She Stoops to Conquer*. Tel 01203 553055.

## HOW TO BOOK — AND JOIN

TO BOOK, please phone the listed number during normal office hours. The address printed on the ticket you receive will be the special address negotiated by The Theatre Club. There may be a transmission charge to cover postage.

TO JOIN The Theatre Club, either send a cheque for £12.50, made payable to The Theatre Club, together with your name, address and telephone number to The Theatre Club, P.O. Box 2164, Colchester CO2 8JL, or telephone 01206 225145 using your credit card. Please allow 28 days for delivery of your membership pack. For general inquiries call 0171-387 9673.

## From Albania to perfidious Albion

## THEATRE

Accommodating Eva  
King's Head

ly invites her into Paul's household, thanks to his sentimentally liberal and guilt-ridden wife Joanne. Sleazy hack Keagan, who is trying to expose Angela's unscrupulous business dealings, quickly turns his attention to Eva and transforms her into a Margarita Prakatian-style media star within a matter of weeks.

Director Tom Dulack goes for high comedy at every opportunity. Keane plays Eva like a music-hall comedy turn, which is a good bet in the folksy atmosphere of the King's Head. Besides, the script gives her little to go on other than periodic outbursts of Albanian patriotism and disgust at the shenanigans of the consumer-driven free world, especially England.

One entire scene, of her live television cookery show, which she performs in full Albanian national dress, consists of an extended gag about Albaniansliking to eat greasy things like mackerel stuffed with tripe and "King

Zog style" burnt cabbage leaves. The main humour of this comes with the comparison to the King's Head own cuisine.

But the really preposterous part is that, having set up this stock comic character, director and author try to convert Eva into a sensible and intelligent woman with principles and finer feelings. The danger of schmaltz here is high, though Keane gives us enough of a wank and a feble to reassure us that this is only light entertainment anyway, so bear with it.

The reappearance of Oliver Bradshaw's marvellously ancient, Bard-quoting Judge offers some comfort ("Flyria — Ah yes! I played Viola when I was at prep school. They still remember it") and conveniently provides a happy ending for all.

CLARE BAYLEY

things started ticking over in my brain. And I fell in love with New York."

What was the attraction of the Big Apple? "I was having a good time finding out about life. In London, life had been unadventurous: I grew up quickly in New York, where there was nobody to take care of me. And I was given piles of work when I got there. And I discovered that dancing could be vibrant and exciting."

How does it feel coming back here to rehearse his work at Covent Garden? "I love coming back and working with everyone at Covent Garden. Part of me is still here. I wind down when I come to London. It's very comfortable being back here: the pace is calmer and slower, although I am extremely frustrated that at 2am I can't get anything I want."

DEBRA CRANE

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Today THE PHANTOM celebrates TEN PHANTASTIC YEARS

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE  
Haymarket, London 0171-494 5400

## Out of the blues, onto the rack

## POP

## The Jon Spencer Blues Explosion Astoria, WC1

idle age and "the blues" usually means the tutored elegance of performers such as Eric Clapton and Robert Cray. It takes a sacrilegious mind-set and an effort of will to capture something of the visceral thrill that the music conveyed in its original form. Whether sprinting their way through the one-minute punk-rock opus *Identify* or negotiating the funk groove of *Firefly Child*, Spencer and his cohorts were more than up to the task.

After staggering his way through a ludicrous take-off of James Brown, Spencer led the band through a series of "encores" climaxing with a raucous *Chicken Dog* and a magnificently wired version of *Dang*, with Bauer on harmonica coaxing a noise like a freight train from hell. Proof at last that there is more to this blues lark than "Woke up this morning..."

Now that rock'n'roll has settled into a comfortable mid-

DAVID SINCLAIR

## Massive respect

## REGGAE

## Horace Andy Subterania, W10

set of joyful, universal vibes. As on the album compilation, Andy made frequent raids into his Jamaican goodie-bag for Studio One classics and later pieces such as *Girl I Love You* and *Money Money*, fine examples of his pure, sweet and spiritual reggae.

But as he chuckled and beamed, modestly enjoying this resurgence of appreciation, the man they call "Sleepy" was keen to acknowledge his new sponsors. He stepped outside his traditional style for *One Love*, the darker piece on which he sang on Massive Attack's *Blue Lines* album. And when it came to his own *Spying Glass* it was the updated version from their 1994 album *Protection* that he performed. Respect was truly flowing in all directions.

Nor were they disappointed, as the bespectacled maestro, now 45, shimmied through a

PAUL SEXTON

## GREAT BRITISH HOPES

## Rising stars in the arts firmament

## CHRISTOPHER WHEELDON

Profession: Dancer and choreographer  
Age: 23

Is it true he started life as a country boy? "Well, not quite. I am from Yeovil, so I'm not quite a country lad, and I certainly wasn't born on a farm."

Early impressions: Wheeldon studied ballet as a child — "the only boy among a thousand girls" — and then ended up at the Royal Ballet School. He won the Prix de Lausanne — a gold medal, no less — in 1991 at the age of 17.

Career path: Joined the Royal Ballet in 1991, where he spent two seasons in the corps de ballet. In 1993, he left to join New York City



Ballet. Since then he has emerged as a promising young choreographer on both sides of the Atlantic. His new *Pavane pour une infante défunte* (see Ravel's short, sensuous dance) is premiered at the Royal Opera House on October 18, marking his Covent Garden debut as a choreographer. Then in the spring Wheeldon will follow that with a commission from New York City Ballet.

Why leave a good job at Covent Garden? "I was injured; I sprained my ankle and I was down in the dumps, kind of depressed. I was having a tough time getting back into shape. I got the job offer with New York

things started ticking over in my brain. And I fell in love with New York."

What was the attraction of the Big Apple? "I was having a good time finding out about life. In London, life had been unadventurous: I grew up quickly in New York, where there was nobody to take care of me. And I was given piles of work when I got there. And I discovered that dancing could be vibrant and exciting."

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DEBRA CRANE





## ■ OPERA 1

Superb singing, a witty staging and urgent passion from the pit: the Covent Garden *Siegfried* takes off



## ■ OPERA 2

... while in Amsterdam a new production of Shostakovich's *The Nose* plays up the macabre



## ■ OPERA 3

... and in the Festival Hall Sir Georg Solti assembles a formidable cast for *Don Giovanni*



## ■ MUSIC

James MacMillan draws inspiration from Good Friday for a new cello concerto premiered by Rostropovich

**OPERA:** Haitink plots an unerring course through Wagner; *The Nose* loses the scent; Mozart in concert

# The light fantastic trips by

After the somewhat unsparing emotional rigours of *Die Walküre*, it was a relief to turn to what is traditionally known as the scherzo movement of the *Ring* cycle. As if to remind us that even clichés sometimes have to be true, Haitink was at his sprightliest. The first two acts sped by even more briskly (I think) than when the production was new 18 months ago, yet with no hint of hustle or incoherence. Haitink was always alive to the wit of the music and its conversational pace, and the tenderness of Siegfried musing on his par-

## Siegfried Covent Garden

entage in the forest was all the more affecting for not being glutinously lingered over.

The pace was maintained even in the mighty first scene of the third act, which had thrilling forward impetus without any loss of dramatic weight. It was only with the awakening of Brünnhilde that Haitink started to relax the pace: the love duet was a warm, spacious, lyrical effusion full of hope for a future free of the clutter of the past so unceremoniously bundled into yesterday's wardrobes in Richard Jones's production.

That future seemed even more hopeful, given that Siegfried no longer dons Wotan's surgeon's smock, one of the very few changes in a production that was anyway the most successful of the four first time round. A new disposition of Nigel Lowry's plywood set means that Brünnhilde (or an extra) no longer has to stand motionless throughout the first 40 minutes of the act — a good change. Oh, and the house fly has gone. I rather miss it.



Behind the mask: Siegfried (Jerusalem) brings his "beautifully bronzed" tone to Siegfried and Deborah Polaski is "in gleaming form" as Brünnhilde

Yet, yes — the forging of the sword as a demonstration in the Art of Coarse Cookery remains a brilliant comic episode — but Haitink also catches the macabre strain of the first two acts centred on Graham Clark's mesmerising Mime. This prim drag queen, forever twitching the skirts of Sieglinde's frock down to cover his knees, fixing the audience with a glittery-eyed stare inviting conivance, and never more terrifying than when wielding Mrs Bates's knife, is a chilling study in pure malevolence, wonderfully sung.

And when this Siegfried goes *into the Woods* to meet the dragon, he finds instead

yet another Cruel Mother in the wardrobe, this time Matthias Hölle in the same frock but with bigger breasts and a pumpkin head to be sliced off and then sliced up — simply terrifying. Hölle is one of four fine newcomers with Rosemary Joshua's crystal-clear Woodbird, Catherine Wyn-Rogers's sonorous Erda,

and Deborah Polaski in gleaming form as Brünnhilde. John Tomlinson was in towering voice in the third act: he could perhaps afford to relax the volume in the conversational passages earlier. But the hero of the evening was the near-eponymous Siegfried Jerusalem. He knows both the role and his own voice inside out, knows when to relax the pressure, when to sing out, when (in the nicest possible sense) to "cheat". His beautifully bronzed tone and intensely musical phrasing gave as much pleasure as his laddish portrayal. I have never heard him sing the role better.

RODNEY MILNES

## More a fighter than a lover

GEORG SOLTI's return to *Don Giovanni* began in Paris last spring when he reopened the Palais Garnier with a concert performance of Mozart's opera. After other European stops and with several changes in casting he brought it to the Festival Hall over the weekend for a pair of evenings recorded by Decca. This is now Solti's favoured way with opera: no whims of stage directors to contend with and a substantial run with the singers before the sound engineers move in.

It worked very well with *Cost fan tutte*. But for *Don Giovanni* Solti abandoned his new, frisky, quicksilver mood and opted for a grander and more solemn approach. After a severe overture, he and the London Philharmonic Orchestra were almost subdued, not an adjective normally associated with Solti. But the game plan was clear: Solti wanted to reserve a few thunderbolts for the end of

## Don Giovanni Festival Hall

Act I and then hold back most of them for Giovanni's final descent into hell.

His willing and very expert accomplice was Bryn Terfel in the title role. Terfel, now slimmed down but still a powerful figure, plays Giovanni as an antagonist, happiest throwing down challenges to women and society before taking on God. Terfel snarled out the Champagne Aria in high-speed defiance, the first number in the evening to set the hall buzzing. Less successful was Giovanni the seasoned seducer. Both *La ci darem* and the Serenade began too loudly and lacked the silken touch.

The latter was well within the command of Renée Fleming's Anna. She was slightly below her remarkable Mozartian

best in Act I, but Fleming is the mistress of the big number and this she showed in *Non mi dir*, which brought the most eloquent and exquisitely phrased singing of the evening.

There were some rounded performances in the less demanding parts. Monica Gómez especially, and Roberto Scalzitti impressed as Zerlina and Masetto. Herbert Lippert was a pleasantly lightweight Ottavio. Mario Luperi thundered to effect as the Commendatore. But two roles gave problems.

Michele Pertusi, a commanding Giovanni in Paris, was switched to Leporello. Earthiness is not within his extensive musical vocabulary. Nor was Ann Murray at ease with Elvira. She was the odd one out in a much younger cast. There were delectable moments, but the voice hardened under pressure.

JOHN HIGGINS

## CONCERTS: A MacMillan premiere in London; a fine start in Carlisle

MSTISLAV Rostropovich premiered James MacMillan's Cello Concerto on Thursday, the second new work he has played with the London Symphony Orchestra in just over a fortnight. He has now given first performances of well over 60 concertos, stretching back to masterpieces by Prokofiev, Shostakovich and Britten. But even by his own manic standards two works so close together is an achievement.

It is enterprise, too, of the LSO to commission two works in quick succession — but less enterprise to couple both with the same programme of Sibelius and Beethoven. That does imply that the public would not

## Notes about Good Friday

LSO/Davis  
Barbican

want to hear more than one concerto.

In the event, MacMillan's piece proved more rewarding than the Colin Matthews concerto last month. It is also more substantial than MacMillan's cor anglais concerto, to which it is "related": they form the first panels of a triptych inspired by the Maundy Thursday to Easter

of this 40-minute work, scored for large orchestra. MacMillan allows himself a freedom that he has sometimes lacked. The second movement (*The Reproaches*) never sounds obvious, though the material is simple, drawn from plainsong and a hymn-tune known as *Dunblane Cathedral*.

In the final movement, obsessive, tightly-written cello motifs are stilled as a chorale is hammered out, and the cello slides up to its highest register to hover and dissolve into nothingness. This directly-speaking piece is one of MacMillan's finest scores.

JOHN ALLISON

## Upbeat beginning for conductor

JEAN-BERNARD Pommier and the Northern Sinfonia in full lyrical flow is a rare experience. Recently appointed artistic director, after working as guest conductor and soloist for 20 years, Pommier has clearly won not only the faith and the commitment of his fellow musicians but also their affection. No one hearing him conduct Tchaikovsky's Serenade for Strings at the beginning of the Sinfonia's season in Carlisle could doubt that. In the detached chords at the start of the slow introduction

Northern  
Sinfonia  
Carlisle

there was a little indecision about exactly when the bow should be applied. But once the pulse was established in the Allegro moderato, agreement was complete and the orchestra was playing with the spontaneity and technical security that only the Sinfonia among British ensembles can offer in such a winning combination.

In work such as Frank Martin's Concerto for Seven Wind Instruments, which is

more difficult to characterise stylistically, that kind of freedom is correspondingly harder to achieve, particularly if the virtuoso scoring threatens to over-emphasise one instrumentalist. But it was worth the occasional anxiety to hear such a fresh revival of a neglected item. Besides, Rachmaninoff's Vocalise, with the associate leader Martin Hughes taking the vocal line, was reassuring.

GERALD LARNER

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## THE TIMES ARTS

## All aboard for the nasal lark

### The Nose Amsterdam

whom had a point when he pronounced the show "a load of Eurotrash".

But the piece is about absurdity, and it is hard sometimes not to capitulate to the sheer ridiculousness of the action on Stefano Lazaridis's stage. There is nothing in this enormously expensive staging that does not move, and scenes flow into one another with a cinematic ease.



John Daniecki and Udo Holdorf

All the singers enter into the spirit of the production, and the main parts are without exception well done. John Daniecki sings and acts smoothly as the rock'n'roll figure who struts out of the giant Nose, and David Wilson-Johnson is a compelling Kovaylov. Thanks to excellent playing from the Netherlands Chamber Orchestra under Hartmut Haenchen, Shostakovich's score emerges as more than a soundtrack.

JOHN ALLISON

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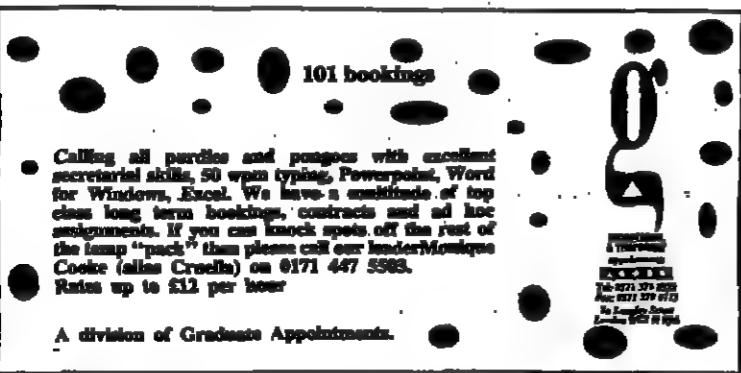
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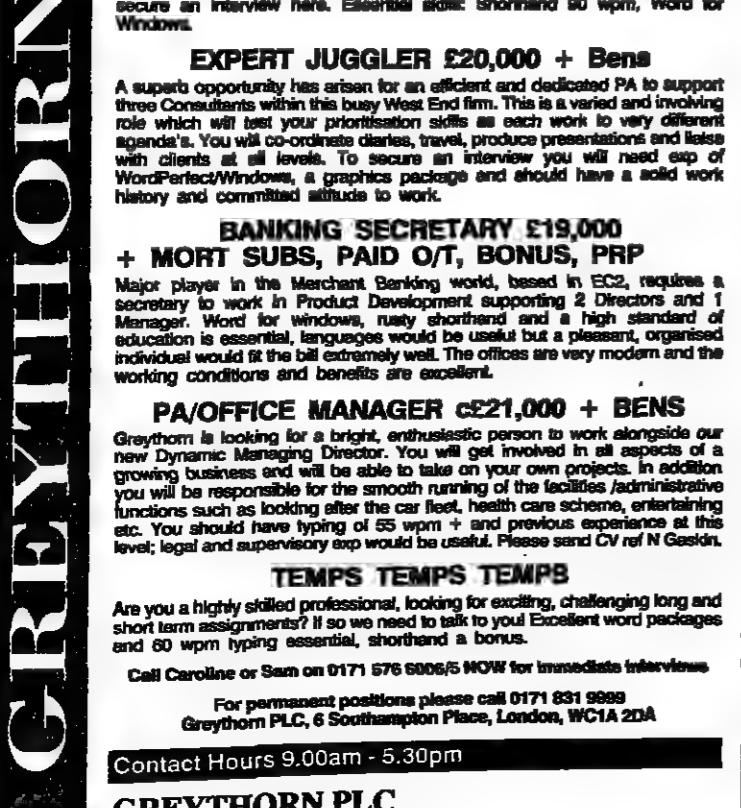
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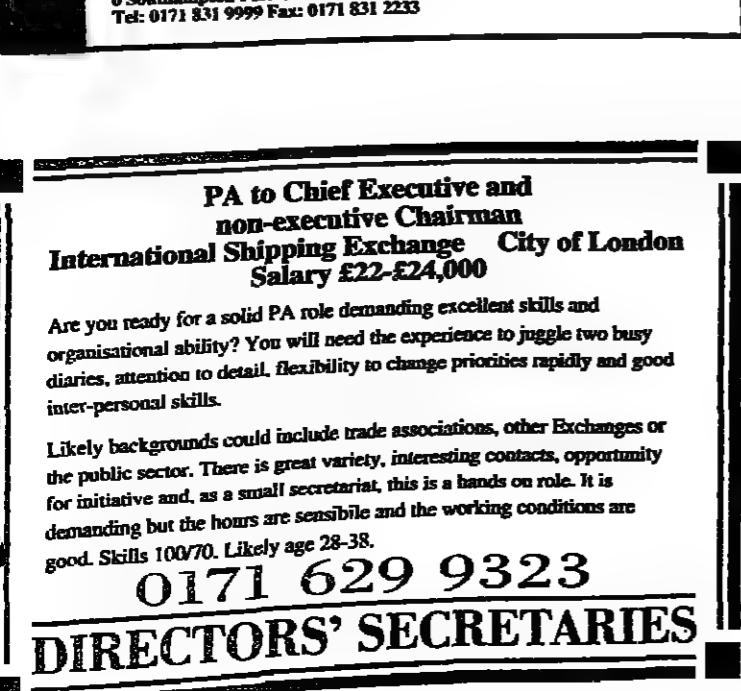
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## RACING: MURPHY TRAINS SIGHTS ON FAMOUS VICTORIES

# Irish Stamp can post first leg of ambitious double

By RICHARD EVANS  
RACING CORRESPONDENT

AT THE Crown in Cricklewood, landlord Paddy O'Donnell is entertaining dreams about the double of a lifetime. In the Czech Republic on Sunday, his silks will be carried by Irish Stamp in a race which makes the Grand National at Aintree resemble a local gymkhana. The seven-year-old chaser, a winner at Ascot last year, will face 31 fences, not to mention galloping over a ploughed field, in the Velka Pardubicka, a stamina-sapping contest over 44 miles.

O'Donnell, who left his native Galway 13 years ago, said yesterday: "If he gets round he'll win, and I think he will get round." Victory in such a remarkable race, won last year by its A Snip, trained in Lambourn by Charlie Mann, would be grand, but for an Irishman nothing matches the sense of victory at the Cheltenham Festival.

Last March, O'Donnell savoured such success when Paddy's Return landed the

Triumph Hurdle. Now the Champion Hurdle beckons. Both horses are trained in Middleham by Ferdy Murphy, who yesterday won the Sporting Index-champagne Louis Roederer award for the most promising National Hunt trainer of last season. The Irish-born trainer's confidence in his hurdler is infectious. "He was a betting man I would have a few quid on

**RICHARD EVANS**  
Nag: GAEILIC STORM  
(2.0 York)  
Next best: Step Aloft  
(2.30 York)

Paddy's Return. Now he has

had his debut at Sedgfield and everybody asked: "Why Sedgfield?" Paday said wherever he went he would have his maximum on, which is quite substantial, to pay the training fees for the rest of the season. So we went to Sedgfield, put our dough on, and he won easily," Murphy said.

In his next race he floored the fancied Zabadi. "He was then beaten at Haydock, where a hurdle kicked back and hit him. He was a brave horse to finish second. We were to Sandown, gave 17lb to Debutante Days and finished second. Richard Dunwoody said if we put blinkers on for the Triumph he would ride."

The temptation to follow up the Cheltenham victory with a visit to the Punchestown Festival was resisted. Instead, Paddy's Return was put out to grass on O'Donnell's farm at Arkley in north London.

"He has strengthened up over the summer and come back a different horse. He has developed into a serious race-

horse, put on a lot of weight, and grown about an inch and a half. He will run at the Newbury meeting later this month before going for a race at the Hennessy meeting," Murphy added.

However, dreams about Festival successes are being put on hold with the Pardubicka, worth £35,000, only four days away. Norman Williamson will ride Irish

Stamp, who was second in the Belgian Grand National three weeks ago.

"He worked well before he left and I don't think the fences will be a problem," Murphy said. "He is rated 25lb above A Snip so must have a good chance. There is that ploughed field, but he is an Irish horse so he will know what a ploughed field is."

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Irish Stamp challenges for the demanding Velka Pardubicka on Sunday

## YORK

**THUNDERER**  
2.00 Gaeilic Storm  
2.30 Step Aloft  
3.00 Royal Dome

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.30 STEP ALOFT.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.30 Puce, 3.30 Pasternak.

4.30 MOONSHINER (nep).

**GOING: GOOD** DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

TOTE JACKPOT MEETING

SIS

**2.00 EQUITY FINANCIAL COLLECTIONS NURSEY MASTERSHIP**  
(2-Y-O; 26-12-8) (12 runners)

101 (1) 24429 BURLES MAJOR 18 (m) Bute Developments T Horner 8-7 D Horner 88  
102 (2) 25020 STORM 22 (f) H Rego Club M Johnson 9-7 M Roberts 88  
103 (3) 25131 CLASS DISTINCTION 15 (f) EMAS Partners 9-7 D Horner 88  
104 (7) 31 LEVELLED 16 (f) Meyers Ltd M Corcoran 9-3 M Roberts 88  
105 (8) 25021 LADY J 14 (f) A & Sons 9-2 M Roberts 88  
106 (9) 40708 BLOOMERS AMAZING 33 (c) S & Stevenson J Eye 8-10 T Williams 88  
107 (11) 25022 STEP N 92 (f) Kent Partnership Ms J Remond 8-10 T Williams 88  
108 (8) 25023 DANCE 14 (f) T Stables 8-10 T Williams 88  
109 (10) 25024 TALKIN' TALKIN' 12 (f) T Stables 8-10 T Williams 88  
110 (11) 25025 DANCER 16 (f) C Hodges 8-10 T Williams 88  
111 (12) 25026 DANCER 16 (f) C Hodges 8-10 T Williams 88  
112 (13) 100 DOMINIQUE 12 (f) T Stables 8-10 T Williams 88  
BETTING: 11-4 Gaeilic Storm, 3-1 Any 8-1 Levelled, 8-1 Bute Major, 10-1 Class Distinction, 12-1 Zoggy, 14-1 Levelled, 16-1 others.

1895 DASHING BLUE 8-13 L. Deller (12-2) 1 Badging 14 ms

## FORM FOCUS

**BURLES MAJOR** 18 (m) 26-12-8 (12 runners)

101 (1) 24429 BURLES MAJOR 18 (m) Bute Developments T Horner 8-7 D Horner 88  
102 (2) 25020 STORM 22 (f) H Rego Club M Johnson 9-7 M Roberts 88  
103 (3) 25131 CLASS DISTINCTION 15 (f) EMAS Partners 9-7 D Horner 88  
104 (7) 31 LEVELLED 16 (f) Meyers Ltd M Corcoran 9-3 M Roberts 88  
105 (8) 25021 LADY J 14 (f) A & Sons 9-2 M Roberts 88  
106 (9) 40708 BLOOMERS AMAZING 33 (c) S & Stevenson J Eye 8-10 T Williams 88  
107 (11) 25022 STEP N 92 (f) Kent Partnership Ms J Remond 8-10 T Williams 88  
108 (8) 25023 DANCE 14 (f) T Stables 8-10 T Williams 88  
109 (10) 25024 TALKIN' TALKIN' 12 (f) T Stables 8-10 T Williams 88  
110 (11) 25025 DANCER 16 (f) C Hodges 8-10 T Williams 88  
111 (12) 25026 DANCER 16 (f) C Hodges 8-10 T Williams 88  
112 (13) 100 DOMINIQUE 12 (f) T Stables 8-10 T Williams 88  
BETTING: 11-4 Gaeilic Storm, 3-1 Any 8-1 Levelled, 8-1 Bute Major, 10-1 Class Distinction, 12-1 Zoggy, 14-1 Levelled, 16-1 others.

1895 DASHING BLUE 8-13 L. Deller (12-2) 1 Badging 14 ms

## FORM FOCUS

**GAEILIC STORM** 18 (f) 26-12-8 (12 runners)

101 (1) 24429 BURLES MAJOR 18 (m) Bute Developments T Horner 8-7 D Horner 88  
102 (2) 25020 STORM 22 (f) H Rego Club M Johnson 9-7 M Roberts 88  
103 (3) 25131 CLASS DISTINCTION 15 (f) EMAS Partners 9-7 D Horner 88  
104 (7) 31 LEVELLED 16 (f) Meyers Ltd M Corcoran 9-3 M Roberts 88  
105 (8) 25021 LADY J 14 (f) A & Sons 9-2 M Roberts 88  
106 (9) 40708 BLOOMERS AMAZING 33 (c) S & Stevenson J Eye 8-10 T Williams 88  
107 (11) 25022 STEP N 92 (f) Kent Partnership Ms J Remond 8-10 T Williams 88  
108 (8) 25023 DANCE 14 (f) T Stables 8-10 T Williams 88  
109 (10) 25024 TALKIN' TALKIN' 12 (f) T Stables 8-10 T Williams 88  
110 (11) 25025 DANCER 16 (f) C Hodges 8-10 T Williams 88  
111 (12) 25026 DANCER 16 (f) C Hodges 8-10 T Williams 88  
112 (13) 100 DOMINIQUE 12 (f) T Stables 8-10 T Williams 88  
BETTING: 11-4 Gaeilic Storm, 3-1 Any 8-1 Levelled, 8-1 Bute Major, 10-1 Class Distinction, 12-1 Zoggy, 14-1 Levelled, 16-1 others.

1895 DASHING BLUE 8-13 L. Deller (12-2) 1 Badging 14 ms

## FORM FOCUS

**STEP ALOFT** 18 (f) 26-12-8 (12 runners)

101 (1) 24429 BURLES MAJOR 18 (m) Bute Developments T Horner 8-7 D Horner 88  
102 (2) 25020 STORM 22 (f) H Rego Club M Johnson 9-7 M Roberts 88  
103 (3) 25131 CLASS DISTINCTION 15 (f) EMAS Partners 9-7 D Horner 88  
104 (7) 31 LEVELLED 16 (f) Meyers Ltd M Corcoran 9-3 M Roberts 88  
105 (8) 25021 LADY J 14 (f) A & Sons 9-2 M Roberts 88  
106 (9) 40708 BLOOMERS AMAZING 33 (c) S & Stevenson J Eye 8-10 T Williams 88  
107 (11) 25022 STEP N 92 (f) Kent Partnership Ms J Remond 8-10 T Williams 88  
108 (8) 25023 DANCE 14 (f) T Stables 8-10 T Williams 88  
109 (10) 25024 TALKIN' TALKIN' 12 (f) T Stables 8-10 T Williams 88  
110 (11) 25025 DANCER 16 (f) C Hodges 8-10 T Williams 88  
111 (12) 25026 DANCER 16 (f) C Hodges 8-10 T Williams 88  
112 (13) 100 DOMINIQUE 12 (f) T Stables 8-10 T Williams 88  
BETTING: 11-4 Step Aloft, 4-1 Puce, 5-1 Lady J, 6-1 Step Aloft, 8-1 Vagabond, 10-1 others

1895 DASHING BLUE 8-13 L. Deller (12-2) 1 Badging 14 ms

## FORM FOCUS

**ROYAL DOME** 18 (f) 26-12-8 (12 runners)

101 (1) 24429 BURLES MAJOR 18 (m) Bute Developments T Horner 8-7 D Horner 88  
102 (2) 25020 STORM 22 (f) H Rego Club M Johnson 9-7 M Roberts 88  
103 (3) 25131 CLASS DISTINCTION 15 (f) EMAS Partners 9-7 D Horner 88  
104 (7) 31 LEVELLED 16 (f) Meyers Ltd M Corcoran 9-3 M Roberts 88  
105 (8) 25021 LADY J 14 (f) A & Sons 9-2 M Roberts 88  
106 (9) 40708 BLOOMERS AMAZING 33 (c) S & Stevenson J Eye 8-10 T Williams 88  
107 (11) 25022 STEP N 92 (f) Kent Partnership Ms J Remond 8-10 T Williams 88  
108 (8) 25023 DANCE 14 (f) T Stables 8-10 T Williams 88  
109 (10) 25024 TALKIN' TALKIN' 12 (f) T Stables 8-10 T Williams 88  
110 (11) 25025 DANCER 16 (f) C Hodges 8-10 T Williams 88  
111 (12) 25026 DANCER 16 (f) C Hodges 8-10 T Williams 88  
112 (13) 100 DOMINIQUE 12 (f) T Stables 8-10 T Williams 88  
BETTING: 11-4 Royal Dome, 3-1 Any 8-1 Levelled, 8-1 Bute Major, 10-1 Class Distinction, 12-1 Zoggy, 14-1 Levelled, 16-1 others.

1895 DASHING BLUE 8-13 L. Deller (12-2) 1 Badging 14 ms

## FORM FOCUS

**WILLIE HOBBS** 18 (f) 26-12-8 (12 runners)

101 (1) 24429 BURLES MAJOR 18 (m) Bute Developments T Horner 8-7 D Horner 88  
102 (2) 25020 STORM 22 (f) H Rego Club M Johnson 9-7 M Roberts 88  
103 (3) 25131 CLASS DISTINCTION 15 (f) EMAS Partners 9-7 D Horner 88  
104 (7) 31 LEVELLED 16 (f) Meyers Ltd M Corcoran 9-3 M Roberts 88  
105 (8) 25021 LADY J 14 (f) A & Sons 9-2 M Roberts 88  
106 (9) 40708 BLOOMERS AMAZING 33 (c) S & Stevenson J Eye 8-10 T Williams 88  
107 (11) 25022 STEP N 92 (f) Kent Partnership Ms J Remond 8-10 T Williams 88  
108 (8) 25023 DANCE 14 (f) T Stables 8-10 T Williams 88  
109 (10) 25024 TALKIN' TALKIN' 12 (f) T Stables 8-10 T Williams 88  
110 (11) 25025 DANCER 16 (f) C Hodges 8-10 T Williams 88  
111 (12) 25026 DANCER 16 (f) C Hodges 8-10 T Williams 88  
112 (13) 100 DOMINIQUE 12 (f) T Stables 8-10 T Williams 88  
BETTING: 11-4 Willie Hobbs, 3-1 Any 8-1 Levelled, 8-1 Bute Major, 10-1 Class Distinction, 12-1 Zoggy, 14-1 Levelled, 16-1 others.

1895 DASHING BLUE 8-13 L. Deller (12-2) 1 Badging 14 ms

## FORM FOCUS

**WILLIE HOBBS** 18 (f) 26-12-8 (12 runners)

101 (1) 24429 BURLES MAJOR 18 (m) Bute Developments T Horner 8-7 D Horner 88  
102 (2) 25020 STORM 22 (f) H Rego Club M Johnson 9-7 M Roberts 88  
103 (3) 25131 CLASS DISTINCTION 15 (f) EMAS Partners 9-7 D Horner 88  
104 (7) 31 LEVELLED 16 (f) Meyers Ltd M Corcoran 9-3 M Roberts 88  
105 (8) 25021 LADY J 14 (f) A & Sons 9-2 M Roberts 88  
106 (9) 40708 BLOOMERS AMAZING 33 (c) S & Stevenson J Eye 8-10 T Williams 88  
107 (11) 25022 STEP N 92 (f) Kent Partnership Ms J Remond 8-10 T Williams 88  
108 (8) 25023 DANCE 14 (f) T Stables 8-10 T Williams 88  
109 (10) 25024 TALKIN' TALKIN' 12 (f) T Stables 8-10 T Williams 88  
110 (11) 25025 DANCER 16 (f) C Hodges 8-10 T Williams 88  
111 (12) 25026 DANCER 16 (f) C Hodges 8-10 T Williams 88  
112 (13) 100 DOMINIQUE 12 (f) T Stables 8-10 T Williams 88  
BETTING: 11-4 Willie Hobbs, 3-1 Any 8-1 Levelled, 8-1 Bute Major, 10-1 Class Distinction, 12-1 Zoggy, 14-1 Levelled, 16-1 others.

1895 DASHING BLUE 8-13 L. Deller (12-2) 1 Badging 14 ms

## FORM FOCUS

**ZOGGY** 18 (f) 26-12-8 (12 runners)

101 (1) 24429 BURLES MAJOR 18 (m) Bute Developments T Horner 8-7 D Horner 88  
102 (2) 25020 STORM 22 (f) H Rego Club M Johnson 9-7 M Roberts 88  
103 (3) 25131 CLASS DISTINCTION 15 (f) EMAS Partners 9-7 D Horner 88  
104 (7) 31 LEVELLED 16 (f) Meyers Ltd M Corcoran 9-3 M Roberts 88  
105 (8) 25021 LADY J 14 (f) A & Sons 9-2 M Roberts 88  
106 (9) 40708 BLOOMERS AMAZING 33 (c) S & Stevenson J Eye 8-10 T Williams 88  
107 (11) 25022 STEP N 92 (f) Kent Partnership Ms J Remond 8-10 T Williams 88  
108 (8) 25023 DANCE 14 (f) T Stables 8-10 T Williams 88  
109 (10) 25024 TALKIN' TALKIN' 12 (f) T Stables 8-10 T Williams 88  
110 (11) 25025 DANCER 16 (f) C Hodges 8-10 T Williams 88  
111 (12) 25026 DANCER 16 (f) C Hodges 8-10 T Williams 88  
112 (13) 100 DOMINIQUE 12 (f) T Stables 8-10 T Williams 88  
BETTING: 11-4 Zoggy, 3-1 Any 8-1 Levelled, 8-1 Bute Major,

FOOTBALL: COACH OUTLINES HIS VISION FOR ENGLAND BEFORE WEMBLEY MEETING WITH POLAND

# Hoddle aiming to create the right blend

By DAVID MILLER

THERE is just a chance, a slim one, that Glenn Hoddle may produce the kind of England team about which supporters daydream. Few former highly creative players make outstanding management coaches. Hoddle could be one of those exceptions.

Great players such as Di Stefano, Kubala and Blanchflower tend to have been too idealistic as coaches. Among the successful managers who were previously exceptional players have been Franz Beckenbauer and Kenny Dalglish, though the latter has never operated at national level. Successful managers tend to be pragmatic midfield players or defenders — Nicholson, Busby, Ramsey, Revie, Zagalo (Brazil), Schön (Germany) — who know how a team or a match hang together.

The only truly idealistic manager to have won an international trophy in modern times was Michel Hidalgo, with France in 1984, though he had the advantage of a group of fine players. Hoddle, revealing yesterday that he was talked into

which he inherited from Terry Venables and which we are likely to see tonight.

"The game has evolved into it v it, very different," he said, "all players are operating in a tactical way. Brazil are an example. Parreira [their coach] realised that to win the World Cup they had to change, they could not just select the best players, as in the past, and send them out to play."

Since his days as an international player when he too often under-performed or was ineffectively used, depending on your point of view, Hoddle has clearly learnt a lot. He has, of course, the expedient streak, hence his retention of Pearce. As Dave Mackay used to protest mockingly about Blanchflower, "I have to win the ball before he can use it."

Hoddle emphasises that five technical players in midfield "is not going to work". The inclusion of Ince, a terrier, is fundamental. Yet everything Hoddle is saying suggests he sees the team as being a blend of those who, colloquially, can make the ball talk, and those who will help them to do so. This is encouraging.

The pragmatism, however, is further evident in his admission that qualifying ties are essentially different from a final tournament: that the former, at intervals of months, necessitate in the vernacular, getting a result while a month-long tournament allows the possibility to develop a more collective style.

He considers that the England team cannot be considered *his* team for another six or seven matches and that what the team eventually becomes will depend on results in the next few matches.

Yes, Hoddle said yesterday, it was a help to have been a skilful player. "If you can explain things, show them, they are respectful," he said, "as long as you are telling them the right things, the reasons. At this level, it's about their responding."

The intriguing aspect of his reign will be how far he will remain faithful to the basic tenet of the English game: big, strong central defenders such as Pallister and muscular centre forwards such as Shearer. For a century, such players have defined the English game. Matthews, Finney, Charlton and Hoddle, these have been the exceptions. How will the new manager build his team within this framework: he will no doubt remember that occasion when England played a ball-playing midfield trio, Ball-Bell-Peters, and were thumped by Netzer and Germany in 1972. As Hoddle said, there is no such thing as a perfect game.



Craig Brown, the Scotland manager, with John Collins, his new captain, preparing for today's game against Estonia. Report, page 48

## Poles apart keep the football faith alive

Nick Szczepanik, born in Britain of a Polish father and British mother, looks forward to a revival of ancestral loyalties at Wembley

**R**yszard Slusarenko, the Polish-born chairman of the Association of Polish Sports Clubs in Great Britain, has no doubts where his allegiance lies. "I support England at cricket; I wanted England to win in Euro '96," he said, "but if Poland had been playing, it would have been different."

Tonight, of course, Poland are playing. They meet England at Wembley in the qualifying competition for the 1998 World Cup finals and the extensive Polish community in Britain, first generation, second generation and beyond, will be well represented.

At the Polish community centre in Derby on Saturday,

Slusarenko, who has lived most of his life in Britain, was bombarded with ticket inquiries as soon as he walked through the door. A 50-seat coach will go to Wembley, along with others from all over the East Midlands and most other areas of Britain.

For Poles, the golden years

were the Seventies and early Eighties; with players such as Boniek, Lato and Deyna, they had sides to compare to the best, twice claiming third place in World Cup finals.

"We ran three coaches for the 1974 game," Slusarenko recalled, when Poland last escaped defeat at Wembley. England memorably failing to achieve the victory they needed to beat Poland to the finals, largely thanks to the heroics of Tomaszewski, the goalkeeper.

The only other famous Polish goalkeeper is Karol Wojtyla (better known as Pope John Paul II) and supporters are not optimistic about tomorrow night, blaming lack of investment in sport since the end of Communist Government in 1990 for the national team's decline.

Although the number of times that England and Poland have been drawn together

in qualifying groups tends to make Wembley a regular fixture, many Anglo-Poles, whatever their club allegiance, also travel to see Poland's Uefa or European Cup representatives on British grounds whenever possible.

"I was over in Blackburn to see Legia, with a car-load. They played very well," Slusarenko said.

In the car park at Ewood Park, I saw groups of Poles who had travelled from Poland in cars and obviously made my way across to say hello. Out came the vodka, as you can imagine."

As well as ties with the old country, football provides links between the diverse Polish communities here: 25 teams, whose players must prove Polish blood, play in an annual tournament. This year, a traditionally strong

team from Mansfield was beaten in the June final by the Varsavia club of London, who are able to get Poland's worst results out of their system on occasions. "We recently beat a team of Japanese businessmen S2, which was a sort of revenge for the national team," the manager, Edmund Ogłaza, said.

Whether any Poles will be celebrating in London after tomorrow's game, rather than looking for a team of England supporters to play, is doubtful, although for most of them

— OK, most of us — the chance to cheer our ancestral team in the land of our birth or residence is more important than the result, which is probably just as well.

And when, at the draw for the next European championship, Poland's name comes out in the same group as England's, as it inevitably will, you can be sure that there will be a large group of supporters almost as pleased as the England manager of the day.

Hamilton's header rekindles Scottish ambitions

Estonia Under-21 ..... 0  
Scotland Under-21 ..... 1

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

SCOTLAND claimed their first win in the European under-21 championship, when a Jim Hamilton goal was enough to defeat Estonia 1-0 in Tallinn yesterday. Hamilton's header, in the 31st minute, was Scotland's first goal in three matches.

Paul Ritchie headed a free kick from Miller over the crossbar before Scotland finally ended their scoring drought in the tournament. They forced a corner on the left and, when Richie Gilkes curled over a cross, Hamilton had space to head home.

Hamilton, the Dundee striker, went close to scoring his — and Scotland's — second goal three minutes after the break. He met a Bonar cross with his head but Sergei Pareiko, the Estonia goalkeeper, brilliantly tipped the ball over the crossbar.

Hamilton created another chance for McCulloch, then departed after 51 minutes with a shoulder injury. Pareiko made another save from Gilkes as Scotland searched for a second goal to make sure of victory. Brian Hetherington, of St Mirren, won his first cap as a substitute for Gilkes, his club-mate, but Scotland had to survive a couple of late scares.

Victory came at a cost. The captain, Charlie Müller, of Rangers, received his second booking of the tournament early on in the game and will miss the match against Sweden next month through suspension.

Hamilton believes the result has revived Scotland's hopes of qualifying for the final stages. "I still think we can go through, but the Sweden match is a big one now," he said.

Tommy Craig, the coach, was satisfied to see his players claim their first win but was not pleased with the performance. "I'm not happy, but grateful to get the three points," Craig said. "We did not do enough in my view and the job is taking longer than I thought. I just hope we can raise our game against Sweden and Austria, as it is a Scottish trait to play better against better sides."

ESTONIA UNDER-21 (4-4-2): Pareiko; Mihkel Kruus, Tarmo Lehto, Arno Saarek, Priitel Lai, Lauri Lehtma, Kobasenko, Tereshov (sub: Vahevee, 46); — Urustika, Alles (sub: Cun, 89).

SCOTLAND UNDER-21 (4-3-3): C. McCulloch; S. McCullagh, G. Nevin, D. Bonar, D. Miller, R. McFadzean, D. Gilkes (sub: B. Hetherington, 78); J. Hamilton (sub: M. Anthony, 51); C. Miller (sub: P. Bonar, 39); L. McCulloch.

Referee: L. Garner (Denmark)

## Irish play name game

FROM PETER BALL IN DUBLIN

THE surroundings may be familiar, but Ireland will nevertheless step into the unknown at Lansdowne Road tonight. It will be the first time Mick McCarthy's new team have played at home in a competitive match and, for good measure, the opponents in their World Cup qualifying group eight fixture are unknown quantities, with even their full title — the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia — a source of confusion.

Nothing about the break-up of the former Yugoslavia was easy, and the full title of the southern Yugoslav state is the producer of Greek intransigence. With two thirds of historic Macedonia inside Greek borders, Greece insisted that the country could not be called simply Macedonia, closing borders and cutting trade to stress the point. Last week, every Irish newspaper that used the shorthand version received phonecalls or letters from the Greek Embassy correcting their errors.

The fledgeling republic is

certainly weaker than Croatia or Yugoslavia (now comprising just Serbia and Montenegro), but draws with Denmark and Belgium in the qualifying competition for Euro 96 suggest some quality and the new coach, Dokica Hadzivelić, can call on players performing in Belgium, Switzerland, Germany, Spain and Denmark, as well as close to home in Belgrade and Split.

They arrived in Dublin on Monday without their best-known player, Darko Pančev, once, in his heyday, with Red Star Belgrade, one of the best strikers in the world, but out of favour with his latest club, FC Sion, in Switzerland. They

are also without their other outstanding talent, Mitož Stojković, of Real Oviedo, a left-sided midfield player, but with Ilija Najodski, who captained Red Star to their 1991 European Cup win, and Partizan Belgrade's talented young attacker, Goran Kristić, as well as to take lightly.

The Irish, whose passion is undimmed if yesterday's tigerish training session is any guide, are unlikely to do that. For them, the loss of Ray Houghton in midfield means that Alan McLoughlin is likely to assume the central, anchor role, alongside Jason McAteer, who was picked as a wing back in Liechtenstein in August (when the Irish won 5-0) and fell ill. Up front, Keith O'Neill, the Norwich left-winger, and John Aldridge are likely to win the vote ahead of Tony Cascarino.

IRELAND (probable, 3-5-2): S. Green (Stockholm Rovers) — D. Iverne (Manchester United), B. Green (Gillingham), C. S. McCullagh (Portsmouth), J. Keane (Bolton Rovers) — J. McAtee (Luton Town), A. McLoughlin (Portsmouth), A. Townsend (Villa Park), H. McDonald (United) — J. Aldridge (Harrow Rovers), K. O'Neill (Norwich City)

## Gullit manages first steps to recovery

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

RUUD GULLIT, the Chelsea player-manager, hopes to make his first temporary appointment of the season for his club in a specially-arranged match against Nottingham Forest at Stamford Bridge tomorrow. Gullit, who underwent knee surgery two months ago, has been restricted to managerial duties only since August.

He will also use the game to improve the fitness of Eddie Newton, Terry Phelan and Gavin Peacock, none of whom have appeared in the first-team this season, either.

"I'm hoping it's all behind me now," Phelan said. "It was very hard at Lilleshall, they really put me through it, but I've done a lot of running and I'm as good as ready."

Frank Sinclair, Dmitri Kharine and Jakob Kjeldberg, Chelsea's other long-term casualties, are still recuperating. John Spencer, their striker, returned home early yesterday from Scotland's two-match World Cup trip to the Baltic with a hamstring strain.

Leicester City on Saturday. However, the chances of Newton, Phelan and Peacock, after lengthy lay-offs, are more realistic. Newton has not played since breaking a leg in the match against West Ham United in February. Phelan has been plagued by hamstring and Achilles tendon problems and recently spent a week at the Lilleshall rehabilitation centre.

"I'm hoping it's all behind me now," Phelan said. "It was very hard at Lilleshall, they really put me through it, but I've done a lot of running and I'm as good as ready."

Frank Sinclair, Dmitri Kharine and Jakob Kjeldberg, Chelsea's other long-term casualties, are still recuperating. John Spencer, their striker, returned home early yesterday from Scotland's two-match World Cup trip to the Baltic with a hamstring strain.

MANCHESTER City are to be reported to the Football League and the Football Association for an alleged illegal approach to Phil Neal, their new assistant manager. Samesh Kumar, chairman of Cardiff City, where Neal was manager, revealed yesterday that he would be making an official complaint.

Kumar's grievance with City is over compensation. He will ask that the Nationwide League first division club be ordered to pay upwards of £100,000 to cover the remaining three years that Neal had to serve on his contract. Neal joined Steve Coppell, the new Manchester City manager, at Maine Road yesterday.

"I have heard nothing from Manchester City, and I think that is absolutely scandalous," Kumar said. "I sent a fax to City asking for clarification, but we have heard nothing. We were not told that they even wanted our manager. As far as I'm concerned, Phil Neal still has the best part of a three-and-a-half year contract with

left: people are simply looking after number one, and we are being left in the lurch."

Lee indicated yesterday that he is prepared to talk about compensation, but it is still an inauspicious start for Neal, the man who was portrayed in an unfaltering light in a television documentary about Graham Taylor, the former England manager, who employed him as an international coach.

Coppell, however, has defended his decision to employ Neal. "If you ask people at Coventry what they think, they say he did an excellent job given the resources he had," Coppell said.

Tomas Brolin is planning to fly back to England for a meeting with George Graham, the Leeds United manager, after being given an ultimatum by the club. The Sweden international, 26, had defied demands from injury-hit Leeds to rejoin them following the completion of a one-month loan period with FC Zurich, of Switzerland.

Aimé Jacquet, the France coach, has again overlooked Eric Cantona, the inspirational Manchester United captain, for tonight's friendly with Turkey, despite having three of his regular strikers sidelined through injury.

Adidas, the sportswear firm, said yesterday it had secured the rights to be an official sponsor of the 1998 World Cup and also acquired global licensing rights for the event. The finals are being staged in France.

Steve Nicol, the former Liverpool defender, is set to join Steve McMahon, his old Anfield team-mate, as player-coach at Swindon, of the first division. Nicol, 34, at present registered as a player with the FA Carling Premiership club Sheffield Wednesday, has failed to gain a regular first team place at Hillsborough this season.

Norwich City have agreed a £200,000 fee with Bristol Rovers to sell Jamie Cureton, their Bristol-born striker, back to his home-town club.

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Oliver Holt concludes his series on memorable Formula One duels



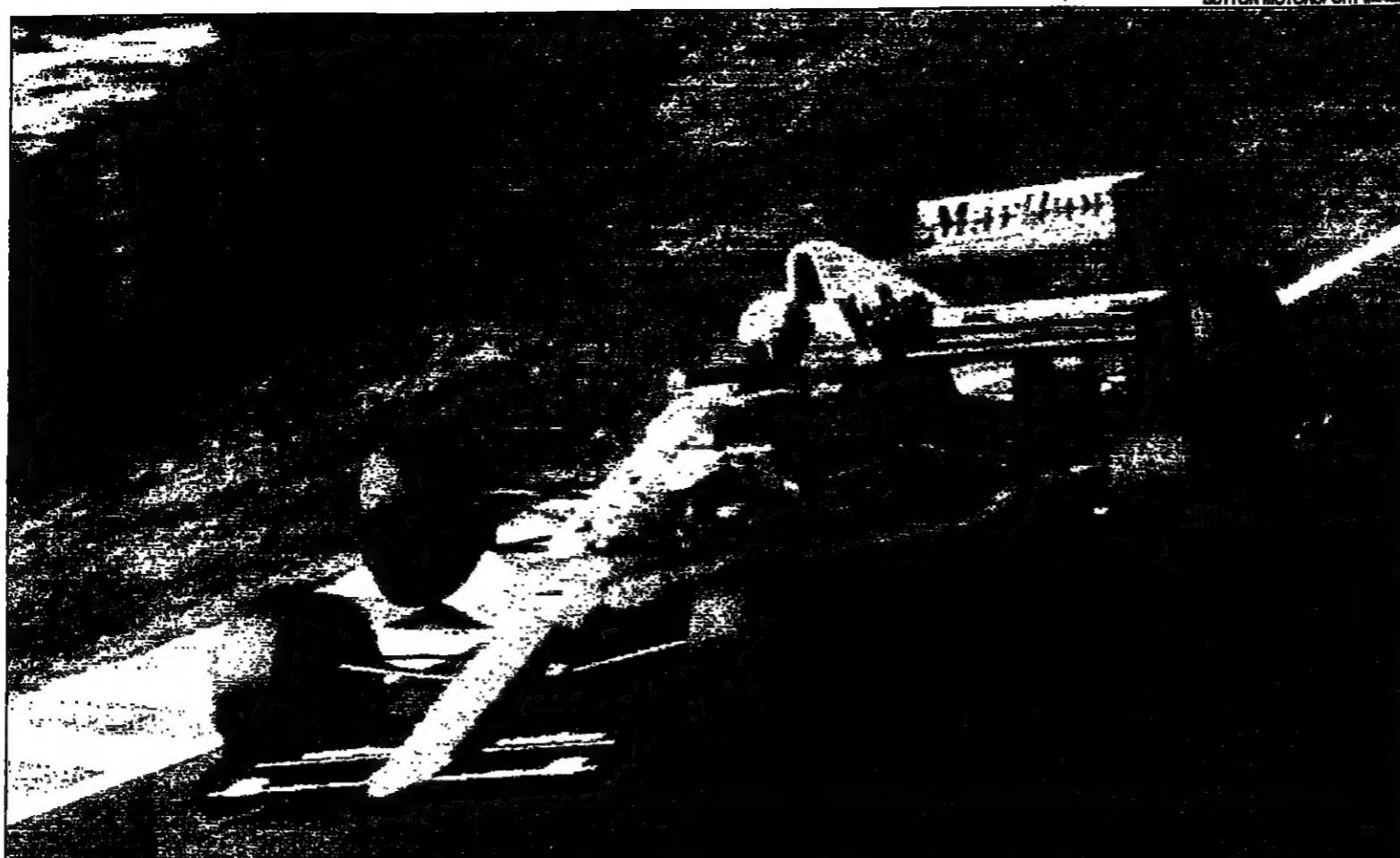
**A**s Damon Hill sits on the grid in his Williams-Renault before the start of the Japanese Grand Prix at Suzuka on Sunday, his stomach churning and his nerves jangling, he will stare straight ahead to the first corner. His mind will be on the task ahead, on Jacques Villeneuve, the only man who can deprive him of the title. But, at the edge of his thoughts, there will be a place for the wide tract of gravel at the end of the straight, the place where the most bitterly-fought championship of all was won and lost.

Six years ago, Alain Prost and Ayrton Senna, recognised as the greatest drivers of their era and already among the most decorated, arrived at the circuit in the midst of an uninspiring industrial belt near the city of Nagoya, locked in the latter stages of another acrimonious duel, not just for that year's Formula One world driver's championship, but for the accolade of being the greatest driver of all.

They already had, as American chat-show hosts are fond of saying, a history. The previous year, at the same venue, Prost had rather unconvincingly "shut the door" on Senna, then his McLaren team-mate, barging across him as the Brazilian tried to snatch the lead by overtaking on the inside as they approached the chicane on the 44th lap.

Both cars came to a halt, locked together, but while Prost took off his gloves, hauled himself out of the cockpit and walked away, Senna managed to restart with the help of a push from some marshals and cut across the rest of the chicane, both illegal actions.

He went on to win the race but was disqualified for his transgressions and became involved in a protracted dispute with Fisa, the sport's governing body. The incident made Prost world champion



Senna, top, and Prost collide at the first corner in the 1990 Japanese Grand Prix, ensuring that the Brazilian took the championship

for the third time but the acrimony between him and Senna forced the Frenchman into a move to Ferrari at the end of the season.

The next year, though, it was Senna who held the points advantage over Prost when the struggle for the title reached Suzuka. There was still the Australian Grand Prix in Adelaide to come but, if Prost did not win in Japan, he would lose any chance of becoming Ferrari's first world champion for 11 years and Senna would clinch the title.

The excitement of some of the greatest championship struggles, perhaps, has rested in their protracted nature, in the fact that the winner has not been known until the last lap of the race. Somehow, there was something about the breakdown in the relationship between Prost and Senna that made that scenario unlikely.

In the end, the showdown lasted just 15 seconds. Senna started from pole position, unhappy because it was on the right-hand side of the track

which was dirtier than the left. His requests for pole to be changed to the other side were refused. Prost, alongside him on the front row, made the better start and led the race towards that first corner, 200 metres away.

Within 30 metres, Prost was a car's length ahead with Senna tucked in behind. Prost kept slightly to the left, rather than moving over to block his rival, so that he could hurtle through the corner flat out in fifth gear. But as the corner approached and Prost began to turn in, Senna kept on coming on the inside and the space between them shrank and shrank.

"What he did is disgusting," the Frenchman said. "I am not ready to fight against irresponsible people who are not afraid to die. Anyone who understands motor racing does not have to ask what happened."

"He did it on purpose because he saw that I had a good start, that my car was better and that he had no

chance to win. So he just pushed me out."

"What he did is more than unsporting; it is disgusting. I have no problems about losing the world championship. I have lost many, but not in this way. He has completely destroyed everything. I hope everyone can see he was not honest. I never expected what he did. I thought he was one of the human race."

"I thought he was hard but fair on the track. Not like this. For him it is much more important to win the world championship than it is for me. It is the only thing that he has in his life. He is completely screwed up."

The debate, of course, ran and ran. There were many who heaped criticism on Senna, some who said Prost had been naive in leaving him any sort of opportunity to dive up the inside. It is still, probably, the most famous, most controversial collision in the history

of the sport and, a year after it had happened, even at the moment he won his third world title, it was still on Senna's mind. He said the accident had been caused by the decision of Jean-Marie Balestre, then the president of Fisa, not to change pole position to the left.

Recounting his thought process before the crash, Senna said: "If, at the start, because I am in the wrong position, Prost gets the jump, and beats me off the line, at the first corner I'll go for it. And he had better not turn in, because he's not going to make it. It just happened, I guess. It was the result of a bad decision, influenced by Balestre. I contributed to it, but it was not my responsibility."

In the circumstances, perhaps, it may be the challenger who looks his eyes on to the gravel trap alongside the first corner this Sunday. Hill is not the ruthless man Senna was, but Villeneuve would do well to heed the lessons of 1990 all the same.

RADIO 1

All times in BST. News on the hour

5.30am Europe Today 6.30 Europe

Today 7.15 The World Today 7.30

Megastar 8.15 The Star 8.30

Hartman 9.15 6.15 Concert Hall 10.05

World Business Report 10.15 Andy

Kershaw's World of Music 10.45 Sport

11.30 BBC English 11.45 On the Shelf

12.30pm Thirty-Minute Drama: The

Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde

1.30 BBC English 1.45 The World 1.45

2.30pm Megastar 4.05 Sport 4.15

BBC English 4.30 News in German 5.30

Business Report 5.45 Britain Today 6.10

World Today 6.25 Science View 6.30

New in German 7.30 Discovery 8.01

Outlook 9.25 World Business 10.00

Midnight 10.00 World Business 10.15

British Today 11.45 Sport 12.10am

Science View 12.15 Country Style 12.30

Multistack 1.30 From Our Own Correspondent 1.45 Britain Today 2.00 Outlook 2.25 Words of Faith 3.30 Meridian 4.15 Sport 4.30 Europe Today

## WORLD SERVICE

5.00am Morning Reports, incl 5.45

Wake Up to Money 6.00 The Breakfast

Programme 6.35 The Magazine, with

Brian Hayes, incl 10.35 News from

Europe 12.00 Midday with Mark, incl

1.30pm Debate Thrower 3.00 Alex

Lester 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Jim Lloyd

8.00 Ralph McTell Across the Channel

8.30 Young Tradition 9.00

South African Celebration (SAC) 9.30

Midnight 10.00 All Around Africa

10.30 Pause for Thought 3.00 Steve Madden,

incl 3.30 Pause for Thought

## RADIO 2

5.00am Chris Evans 8.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whiley 2.00 Nicky

Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier 7.00 Evening Session 9.00 Alan Parker –

Road Warrior (r) 10.00 Mark Radcliffe 12.00 Claire Sturgess 4.00 Clive Warren

## RADIO 3

5.00am Chris Evans 8.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whiley 2.00 Nicky

Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier 7.00 Evening Session 9.00 Alan Parker –

Road Warrior (r) 10.00 Mark Radcliffe 12.00 Claire Sturgess 4.00 Clive Warren

## RADIO 4

5.00am Chris Evans 8.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whiley 2.00 Nicky

Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier 7.00 Evening Session 9.00 Alan Parker –

Road Warrior (r) 10.00 Mark Radcliffe 12.00 Claire Sturgess 4.00 Clive Warren

## RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports, incl 5.45

Wake Up to Money 6.00 The Breakfast

Programme 6.35 The Magazine, with

Brian Hayes, incl 10.35 News from

Europe 12.00 Midday with Mark, incl

1.30pm Debate Thrower 3.00 Alex

Lester 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Jim Lloyd

8.00 Ralph McTell Across the Channel

8.30 Young Tradition 9.00

South African Celebration (SAC) 9.30

Midnight 10.00 All Around Africa

10.30 Pause for Thought 3.00 Steve Madden,

incl 3.30 Pause for Thought

## CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Grattell 8.00 Mike Read

8.00 Henry Kelly 12.00 Susannah

Reid 12.30pm Linda Eder 1.00

Romanza 1.30pm Concerto Op. 75 3.00

Nicki Bailey 6.00 Classical Newright

6.30 Sonata, Haydn (Keyboard Sonata

No 32 in G minor) 7.00 Garden<sup>9</sup>

Forum (r) 8.00 Evening Concert<sup>9</sup>

Rachmaninov (The Rock – Fantasy, Op. 7; Glinka (Concerto for Coloratura Soprano, Op. 1); Rachmaninov (The Rock, Op. 36); Glinka (Symphony No 1 in E flat, Op. 8) 10.00 Michael Mappin

1.00am Mel Cooper

## VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jone 8.00 Richard

Steiner 12.00 Graham Dene 4.00pm

Nicky Horne 7.00 Paul Coyle

(FM) / Robin Banks (AM) 10.00 Jeremy Clark

## RADIO 3

6.15 In Tune, Includes Nicola

(The Merry Wives of Windsor); Bach (Prelude and Fugue in F sharp minor); a selection of

Paganini's violin caprices, Op. 6; 12.30pm Concerto No 1 in G minor, Allegro (Adagio in A flat); Scherzo in G minor; Ustier Orchestra, under Sasho Fujikov;

Bach (Symphony No 1 in C minor)

9.00 Third Words, Malcolm

Briggs, Stephen Johnson

explores the symphonic legacy of Anton Bruckner with performances by BBC

Orchestra and the Scottish Symphony Orchestra under Osmo Vanska; Bruckner (Adagio in A flat; Scherzo in G minor); Ustier Orchestra, under Sasho Fujikov;

Bruckner (Symphony No 1 in C minor)

9.00 Third Words, Malcolm

Briggs, Stephen Johnson cuts out how

Third Programme dealt with classic fiction as well as more experimental forms of writing and introduces some early adaptations of novels

10.00 Boje Skovhus, The young Danish baritone sings settings of texts by Heinrich Heine

10.45 Night Waves: In Asylum, Patrick Wright explores the changing pace

and concept of the asylum in British culture and asks why the Victorian institutions grip the imagination of writers and critics

11.30 Composer of the Week: Steve Reich at 80 (r)

12.30am Jazz Notes, Lalo Schifrin started out with Dizzy

Gillespie and now combines the symphony orchestra with blues and jazz

1.00 Through the Night, with Donald Macleod

## SQUASH

### Horner's rapid victory leads British advance

FROM COLIN MCQUILLAN IN PETALING JAYA, MALAYSIA

SUZANNE HORNER, the British champion, enjoyed a trouble-free passage into the second round of the women's world championship here yesterday when she defeated Jehangir Grewal, the India No 1, in straight games.

Horner, 33, from Wakefield, described her 9.5, 9.3, 9.3 victory, completed in 23 minutes, as "scrappy", but said: "A win is a win." Today she meets Rachael Grinham, the tough former world junior champion from Toowoomba, Australia, who has matured noticeably this year.

Former world junior champions are thick on the ground here. The 1991 version, Cassandra Jackman, from Norfolk, had a straightforward 9.3, 9.2, 9.5 win over Janine Hickey, of Australia, and will face Toni Weeks, another Australian, today, while Sue Wright, of Kent, will come up against Jade Wilson, the

double-handed player who was ranked No 2 in the world before suffering from chronic fatigue syndrome, is to return to SRA National League competition in the autumn with Bruxbourne, the Hertfordshire club.

All their efforts might be frustrated, however, by yet another former world junior holder, Sarah Fitzgerald, of Australia. The 1987 age-group champion was in devastating form yesterday, defeating Choi Yeen Chow, of Malaysia, for the loss of just two points.

Peter Marshall, of Nottingham, the double-handed player who was ranked No 2 in the world before suffering from chronic fatigue syndrome, is to return to SRA National

# How to make a conspiracy out of a mystery

**W**hat do a missing British trawler, a secretive sect of mystical Christians and a U2 spy-plane have in common? Blown if I know either. I'm afraid. But I am fully confident of one thing: somewhere, television researcher is working on it. What a night it was for conspiracies. Three subjects, three programmes, three mysteries — but all derived from the first rule of conspiracy theory: things are always more complicated than they seem. Ask Fox Mulder if you don't believe me.

But goodness, keeping up with them all can be exhausting. They always start so intriguingly, so beguilingly... as indeed *Network First: The Riddle of the Gaul* (ITV) did last night. In February 1974, at the height of an Arctic tale, a British trawler called the *Gaul* disappeared... Oh yes, you think: I remember that — awful business. You move a little closer.

That's when they hit you with the twist. Apparently, the *Gaul* was a modern and well-designed trawler, purpose-built to survive the worst the Barents Sea could throw at it — it couldn't possibly have sunk. At that point, an image of the *Titanic* passed before me, an unfortunate lateral leap as it brought me — and no doubt others — perilously close to the conclusion that the producers arrived at much later. If not icebergs, what other large, solid objects do we know that lurk beneath the ocean?

One hour and an awful lot of snow and submarines later, I emerged, my head reeling from the theories, counter-theories and counter-counter-theories that Northern Fenian, a veteran when it comes to *Gaul* conspiracies, and his co-producer Diarmuid Jeffreys had so persuasively laid before us. At times, it seemed a miracle that any cod ever got back to Hull at all, given the lack of real fishing going

on off the north coast of Norway. British trawlers apparently spent much of their time spying on the Soviet Northern Fleet. The Norwegian fisherman who found the only bit of wreckage from the *Gaul* — a suspiciously clean lifebelt — admitted that he worked for Norwegian intelligence. And when we finally met the former head of Russian naval intelligence, he nodded, tapped his nose and admitted that they, too, had their "fishing boats".

I was actually not important whether or not the *Gaul* was spying or simply fishing where she shouldn't, if you accepted the producers' version of what happened next. The trawler positioned herself due north of Murmansk, which in submarine terms is pretty much the equivalent of parking in the fast lane of the Mo. With Soviet subs stealing out of home waters and British and

American subs attempting to keep tabs on them, the theory was that a Soviet submarine (naturally couldn't have been one of ours) surfaced violently and accidentally during the storm, sending the *Gaul* and her 36 crew members to the bottom.

Twenty years ago, the Soviet Union was something of a gift to television conspiracists, a huge black hole into which conjecture

disappeared — conveniently never to be refuted. Twenty years on it is a gift again, but this time for a different reason. You can't keep them off the television. *Network First* had access right up to the former head of intelligence of the Soviet Northern Fleet, but *Timewatch: Baiting the Bear* (BBC2) were better still.

Not only did it have the former

head of Soviet air intelligence on hand to describe the day world war three almost broke out, it had Nikita Khrushchev's son to explain that his father was a much misunderstood man, who spent half his career as Soviet leader pretending that the Kremlin had far more military resources than it actually had and the other half actually having them. But I may have got my bomber gaps and missile gaps mixed up, so please don't take my word for it.

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on the late 1950s and early 1960s, by which time it was difficult to tell who was the madder, LeMay or Power. Thank goodness, somebody invented rock and roll to take our minds off it all.

But what of secretive mystic Christians, you ask? Well despite sifting through *Witness: Death of the Solar Temple* (Channel 4) I am not sure I know. David Cohen and David Carr-Jones did a good job of casting doubt on the conventional view that the deaths of 65 sect members in four separate incidents was mass suicide, but a poor job of coming up with a good reason why anybody might want to murder them instead. They conceded defeat in traditional conspiracy style: "What really happened to the Solar Temple may always remain a mystery." So much for the truth being out there. Scully.

• Lynne Truss appears tomorrow

## REVIEW



Matthew Bond

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**SAILING 45**

Golding's lead under threat as fleet splits

# SPORT

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 9 1996

History and form favour Hoddle in his first Wembley international as coach

## England hold all the aces

By ROB HUGHES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

**A**lthough England will start first on the Villen can d But, though for the place, tough was v Sit and as the era's most circu uniu near in th acrin that world but t The can of prev venu conv on s team hum sma on proz 44th. Ba lock Pro hau coct Sem the ma rest acti F but tra inv put gov ma

**GROUP TWO**

RESULTS: Moldova 0 England 3; Moldova 1 Italy 3; MATCHES TO COME: Oct 9: Italy v Georgia; England v Poland; Nov 6: Georgia v England; Nov 10: Poland v Moldova; Feb 12: England v Italy; March 28, 1997: Italy v Moldova; April 2: Poland v England; May 31: Poland v Georgia; Italy v Poland; June 14: Georgia v Moldova; June 14: Poland v George; Sept 19: England v Moldova; Georgia v Italy; Sept 23: England v Poland; Oct 11: Italy v England; Georgia v Poland. \*dates to be confirmed

principal goalscorer, Andrzej Juskowiak, refuses the call to play for his country on grounds that his German club, Borussia Mönchengladbach, are not happy to release foreign players when their place is not guaranteed.

Third, and in Polish eyes, paramount, the 76,000 sell-out Wembley crowd is considered to be the equivalent of a '12th Englishman'. Moreover, Poland have never won in England, have beaten England once (in 1973) in 11 attempts, and have beaten nobody in their last 11 fixtures covering 15 months.

But beware. For all the newcomer's pride shown by Hoddle, and more of it inside

England seems no reason, other than complacency, why England should not build on their summer of Wembley euphoria by beating Poland at the old stadium in a World Cup qualifying match tonight. All of the advantages are England's.

Glenn Hoddle will lead out his side for the first time beneath the twin towers after seven days of uninterrupted rehearsal; by comparison, Poland have had to call in their players from nine European countries, some of them arriving after playing in weekend club fixtures in Germany and France.

England have undoubtedly harmony of purpose, compared with Poland, whose

They will tell you they are here only to shadow box, but get behind the coach, speak to an unaware player or two, and you find slightly more ambition than that.

We do not know the Poland line-up. Indeed, while Hoddle keeps his attacking options so very close to his chest, you must disregard as sheer speculation any line-ups on either side you have heard for tonight.

The game is deception, managers as new as Hoddle or as old as Piechniczek play their hands so close that not even their pivotal players are sure of the style and the strategy.

Piechniczek, for example, spoke at a St Albans hotel yesterday, of trying to build a new Poland without the qualities of players such as Zbigniew Boniek or the lamented Kazimierz Deyna. "Georgia [also] in this group and Poland," he said, "are like boxers defending ourselves with two hands, and we would like to hit on the counter."

"Italy and England are the teams who should qualify, but always there is a surprise, and may be from our stance we can provide it."

He says, uncompromisingly, that there is no place for Juskowiak because "the player is in conflict with the Polish federation. If he could score ten goals in one match, I could not guarantee him a shirt for



Hoddle answers questions from the press yesterday on the eve of his first home match as England coach

the next. I cannot tolerate these moods, no one is guaranteed his place".

So in a side in which the coach promises to unveil stars we have not yet seen, in a formation likely to figure a solitary frontrunner, the onus is on Krzysztof Warzycha.

He has made his fortune away from the Silesian coalfield of his fathers playing these past five years for Panathinaikos. Now 31, he has scored more than 100 goals for the Greeks, but only seven times in 44 internationals, although Piechniczek said: "Warzycha has great intuition, good technique, and plenty of experience."

From the caution of the

coach to the ambition of a player, Piotr Nowak, just arrived from his club Munich 1860, maybe hasn't heard the shadow boxing. "We must play our football," he said. "My role is to be playmaker. I'm older — not so old [32], so I must keep the young players together."

This atmosphere in Wembley is very nice, but I tell the younger ones not to be afraid. The English are really normal, it's only football, we should play as we do for our clubs. We are all nervous, but every player has the dream to play at Wembley, and England are strong in offence, therefore we must some of the time test their defence."

The Englishman they all talk about is, inevitably, Shearer. One hopes, still, that Hoddle will give in to temptation and give Shearer a full partner, the potent and informal Les Ferdinand, his Newcastle United team-mate.

If that is true, if Poland's

talent spring is dry and Eng-

land's is a torrent, then Hoddle has only to get his

selection right, to organise it,

to win tonight with some

comfort. Otherwise, if the

talent is so strong, who should we blame in the event of

anticlimax? It is, as the small,

compact Nowak said "only football".

as partners he relishes playing alongside.

There is a danger of delusion. Hoddle, possibly out of genuine admiration, possibly playing the game of injecting confidence into his squad, has spent the past month utilising the "tremendous array of talent in our country".

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**MOTOR RACING 46**

Hill must heed lessons of history in Japan



## Scotland may protest over poor lighting

FROM KEVIN McCARRA IN TALLINN

SCOTLAND fear that a literal shadow will fall over their hopes when they meet Estonia in a World Cup qualifying group four match here this evening. Additional floodlighting has been placed at the side of the pitch for a game that is to be broadcast live with a local kick-off time of 6.45pm, but the fact that those extra bulbs are not elevated above the field has produced unsatisfactory conditions.

At training last night, the Scotland players found the ball dropping out of shadows and goalkeeping could prove hazardous. The illumination itself, however, meets the required standard of intensity and the Fifa observer, Jean-Marie Gantzenbein, of Luxembourg, has decided that the official start need not be brought forward.

For their part, Scotland will play under protest and a letter of complaint is likely to be sent to Fifa, the world governing body, by the Scottish Football Association. Craig Brown, the national team manager, is attempting to have a lighter set of stripes laundered so that players will be able to discern one another. Scotland had originally planned to wear their traditional dark blue.

No matter the colour of the jersey, one man will simply be relieved to be wearing it. Scotland took John McGinlay to Euro 96, but only by dishing out free tickets that provided him with a seat in the crowd at his country's matches.

Today, against all expectation, however, the Bolton Wanderers forward will once more be viewing the action in close-up and will make his first international appearance since October 1995.

He has re-emerged because the crowd of other candidates that obscured him from view has been almost entirely thinned away. John Spencer, of Chelsea, having flown home for treatment on a hamstring injury, is the eighth player to drop out of the 24-man squad named for the bids with Latvia and Estonia.

Availability is not McGinlay's only merit. Always eager if selected, he typifies the yeoman virtues that have served Scotland in

to establish swift control of the game, against a country who won a match for the first time on Saturday. The 1-0 victory against Belarus justifies the decision to employ a foreign coach, Telur Thordarson, of Iceland, but sadly, if sensibly, he has decided that the black arts of defensive strategy are required in the quest for tolerable results.

Even at home, Estonia will field only a single forward and it was symptomatic that the goal against Belarus should come from a corner.

SCOTLAND (probable, 4-3-3): A Goran (Goroges); J. McManamy (Colic), T. Boyd (Celtic), C. Calderwood (Tottenham Hotspur), T. McGinlay (Celtic) — C. Bailey (Arsenal), D. McLeish (Everton), D. Murray (Bolton Wanderers), W. Dodds (Newcastle), D. Jackson (Rangers)



## Funding threatens Yorkshire move

By JOHN GOODBODY

YORKSHIRE

needs to be quantifiable sporting gain that results in a direct increase in participation in sport, especially by sections of the community who do not have the necessary facilities."

Although there is some community provision in the plans for the 240-acre site, which will also house a cricket academy and museum, five practice pitches, plus a hotel, marina, railway station and parking for 1,400 cars, the emphasis is on the building of the new White Rose Stadium. The whole scheme will cost about £80 million and Yorkshire is confident it will receive £7 million of European grant aid and £15 million of public and private sector funding.

The local council will give planning permission. Colin Croxall, the Wakefield Metropolitan Council leader, said: "This has to be the deal of the century, a prime greenfield site with unrivalled road and rail access and the opportunity to have world-beating facilities for all outlay. I am thrilled by the bold decision and proud that Wakefield will be the new home of Yorkshire cricket."

In July, the National Lottery fund turned down applications from Lord's and the Oval in their bids to redevelop their grounds for the 1999 World Cup. MCC asked for only £4.9 million towards a total cost of £12.9 million, while Surrey asked for £13.75 million towards a £29.5 million project at the Oval. Work is now going on to resubmit the bids.

## Britain two steps from elite group

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

GREAT Britain were given an outstanding chance of gaining promotion to the world group of the Davis Cup when the draw for next year's competition was made in London yesterday. Britain need to win only two ties to rejoin the elite nations in 1998.

Britain received a bye in the first round of Euro-African zone group one and must beat either Zimbabwe or Ukraine at home in the second round, in April to book a world group qualifying match in September. Last month, Britain won promotion from Euro-African zone group two by beating Egypt 50-26 in the last match staged on No 1 Court at Wimbledon.

Britain have never played Zimbabwe

or Ukraine, but, with choice of surface, they would be strong favourites to beat either. Ian Peacock, the Lawn Tennis Association executive director, said: "I think it is a very good draw for us. April is too early to play on grass, so it will almost certainly be indoors and we have six months to prepare."

"We must consider what sort of crowd we will attract. When we played Egypt,

there were 7,000 at Wimbledon, but there were special reasons for that. We are more likely to plump for a venue that will hold 4,000-5,000 — somewhere like Telford, Brighton or Nottingham."

Zimbabwe would be likely to be represented by the Black brothers, Byron, the world No 49, and Wayne, ranked 248. With home advantage, they will be forced to beat Ukraine.

Ukraine have the highest-ranked player of the two squads in Andrei Medvedev, the world No 31 and once ranked No 4. However, their second singles player would probably be Andrei Rybalko, the world No 333.

If Britain win their second-round tie,

they will not know their opponents in the world group qualifying competition until the draw is made, probably in July.

**DAVIS CUP DRAW**

WORLD GROUP: First round: Brazil v United States; Romania v Holland; Australia v France; Czech Republic v India; Italy v Mexico; Spain v Germany; South Africa v Russia; Sweden v Switzerland

EURO-AFRICAN: 20th round: Britain v Egypt; recent round: Belgium v Denmark or Hungary; Great Britain v Zimbabwe v Slovakia v Israel; Austria v Croatia or Morocco

Ties to be played April 4-6

YOU TAKE WITH YOU  
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